

OIC to discuss Egypt's return

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's readmission to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will be discussed at next week's meeting of Islamic heads of state in Casablanca, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Al Alawi indicated Wednesday.

Asked by reporters here whether the issue would be on the summit agenda, Mr. Alawi said: "The OIC will discuss all issues... the absence of any Arab country has to be discussed at any Arab meeting." The Omani minister, who stopped off here on route for an Islamic foreign ministers' meeting starting in Rabat Thursday, was speaking before talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali. (Islamic ministers due in Rabat, page 2) Egypt was suspended from the OIC as part of its ostracism by the Arab World over its 1979 treaty with Israel. Oman was one of only three Arab states — along with Sudan and Somalia — which maintained diplomatic relations with Cairo.

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Benjedid to be re-elected today

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid will be re-elected unopposed for a second five-year term Thursday, in a poll that looks like a plebiscite. The election is a foregone conclusion since Mr. Benjedid, who succeeded the late Houari Boumedienne in February 1979, was unanimously nominated by the congress of the ruling National Liberation Front in Algiers last month and Algeria is a one-party state.

Howe in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here Wednesday from Saudi Arabia for talks with Syrian officials on Lebanon and the Middle East, on the last leg of a tour of the region. Sir Geoffrey was met at Damascus airport by his Syrian counterpart Abdul Halim Khaddam, with whom he will have a preliminary meeting and dinner Wednesday night before a round of official talks in the morning.

Sultan meets Zia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz has had talks with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul Haq, Pakistani officials said Wednesday. The officials gave no details of the talks Tuesday. Prince Sultan, who is also Saudi defence minister, was in the Pakistani capital on a one-day official visit.

Talal leaves Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz left Cairo Wednesday after a five-day visit, the first to Egypt by a senior member of the Saudi Arabian royal family since it signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Zionist council rebuffs Sharon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's controversial former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon was defeated Wednesday in his bid to join the executive of the Jewish Agency which brings Jewish immigrants to Israel. By a vote of 59-48 with one abstention, the Zionist General Council (ZGC) rejected Mr. Sharon's unopposed candidacy to head the agency's immigration department.

Cyprus submits settlement proposal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou Wednesday submitted proposals for a settlement of the Cyprus problem at a meeting with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He also proposed a meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, but only after abrogation of last November's declaration of an independent Turkish Cypriot state.

Pope to visit Far East in May

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul will visit South Korea, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands this May in his 21st trip outside Italy, an informed Vatican source said Wednesday.

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King appoints new Senate

By Elia Nasrallah and P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times staff writers

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday appointed a new Upper House of Parliament, a new chief of the Royal Court and a new court minister, thus completing major changes in Jordan's political leadership. The new Upper House of 30 members is headed by Ahmad Al Lawzi whose former job as chief of the Royal Court was taken over by former Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh, who was information minister in the outgoing cabinet of Mr. Mudar Badran, was Wednesday appointed court minister to succeed Mr. Amer Khammash who was appointed member of the Upper House of Parliament.

Last week the King issued a Royal Decree recalling the Lower House of Parliament after a decade-long absence, to an extraordinary session. The House met Monday.

Following the Parliament session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday submitted his cabinet's resignation and Ahmad 'Obelaid' was appointed to replace him.

Mr. 'Obelaid, who had been serving as interior minister in the Badran government, formed a 20-member cabinet, which was approved by a Royal Decree Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the new cabinet held its first session, presided over by Mr. 'Obelaid, and decided

to postpone until Monday an ordinary session of the Parliament which was scheduled to be held today, Thursday.

Following are the members of the newly-appointed Upper House of Parliament:

Ahmad 'Obelaid, Bahjat Al Talhouni, Abdul Monem Al Rifai, Ahmad Al Lawzi, Mudar Badran, Anstas Hanania, Abdul Rahman Khalifa, Ahmad Al Tarawneh, Hikmat Al Masri, Wasfi Alzaza, 'Walid Salah, Hazem Nuseibeh, Subhi Amin Amr, Khalil Al Salem, Dougan Al Hindawi, Akram Al Zuhairi, Habes Al Tajali, Amer Khammash, Ali Hassan Odeh, Farid Al Sa'd, Kamel 'Ureikat, Mohammad Al 'Ur'an, Abdul Wajid Shoman,



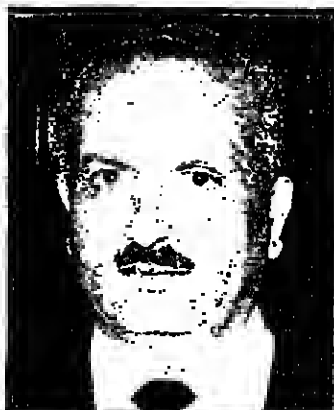
Marwan Al Qasem

Nofan Al Saud, Mohammad Abu Tayeh, Jum'aa Hammad, Nayef Al Khreishat, Hayel Al Surur and Miftah Al Hadid.

In the old Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which was formed by a Royal Decree on Feb. 2, 1983, there were also 30 members of whom 16 left the new House either by passing away, not being re-appointed, or resigned their posts to return to the Lower House of Parliament.

Those who rejoined the Lower House are: Riad Al Miftah, Akel Al Fayez, Fuad Qaish, Saud Al 'Jadi, Faisal Al Jazi, and Miftah, Qudallah.

These, as well as Messrs. Zaid Rifai, Daifallah Al Hmoud, Saleh Al Majal, Hassan Al Kayed, Bahaddin Tougan, Mohammad 'Obelaid, Tharwat Talhouni, Ahmad Al Khalil, Qasem Al Itan, were replaced by Ahmad 'Obelaid, Bahjat Talhouni, Abdul Monem Al Rifai, Ahmad Al Lawzi, Hikmat Al Masri, 'Walid Salah, Khalil Al Salem, Habes Al Tajali, Amer Khammash, Ali



Ahmad Al Lawzi

Hassan Odeh, Abdul Wajid Shoman, Nofan Al Saud, Nayef Khreishat and Kamel 'Ureikat.

The new Speaker of the Upper House, Mr. Lawzi had been chief of the Royal Court since December 1979, when he succeeded the late Abdul Hamid Sharaf who became prime minister and formed his cabinet. Mr. Lawzi was born in Juhelha, Jordan in 1925 and obtained his bachelor degree in literature from Baghdad in 1951. He worked as teacher during 1951-1953, assistant chief of the Royal Protocol, and director of ceremonies at the Foreign Ministry and Parliament member before becoming chief of the Royal Court in 1963, minister of state for prime ministry affairs in 1964, Upper House of Parliament member in 1965, minister of interior for municipal and rural affairs in 1967, finance minister in 1970, Senate member in 1971, prime minister and minister of defence in 1971, Senate member in 1973, National Consultative Council



Adnan Abu Odeh

speaker 1978-1979 and chief of the Royal Court since 1979.

Mr. 'Jasem, the new chief of the Royal Court with the rank of minister, had served as foreign minister since 1980. Before that he was minister of state for foreign affairs in the Abdul Hamid Sharaf cabinet from December 1979 to August 1981. Mr. 'Jasem was born in Amman in 1938 and obtained a degree in political science from Michigan University in the United States in 1961, and later a master degree in political science from the same university.

Mr. 'Jasem served as member of Jordan's U.N. mission in 1966, Jordan's general consul in New York during 1964-1966, director of general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during 1966, member of Jordan's delegation at the United Nations during 1968-1972, private secretary to Crown Prince Hassan and secretary general of the Royal Court during 1974-1976, minister of supply

(Continued on page 3)

New cabinet meets, decides to postpone Parliament session

AMMAN (R) — The first ordinary session of the Jordanian Parliament will be held on Monday instead of Thursday as scheduled earlier, a cabinet announcement said Wednesday.

The announcement followed the first-ever session of the new cabinet which met Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obelaid.

The decision to postpone the Parliament session, during which His Majesty King Hussein was expected to deliver a throne speech, will be referred to the King for approval, the announcement said.

Parliament Secretary-General Yahya Droubi later announced that the House will hold its first session after a lapse of about a decade, on Monday at 11 a.m.

The cabinet decision was taken apparently in view of the King's ill-health. The King was admitted to the King Hussein Medical Centre Monday and a bulletin issued by his private physician said Tuesday he was suffering from a bleeding stomach ulcer. The bulletin said the King was in good and stable condition but would have to remain in hospital for a few days more.

In its first meeting, the new cabinet made a general review of its tasks and decided to regard the King's directives contained in the letter of appointment addressed to the prime minister, Tuesday as guidelines for its future actions.

Later a Royal Decree approved the cabinet decision to postpone the Parliament session until Monday.

Parliament recall draws mixed W. Bank reaction

THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK (R) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank Wednesday expressed mixed views on Jordan's recall of the Lower House of Parliament and its effect on ties between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Al 'Juds newspaper wrote in an editorial that the recall of Parliament "would only strengthen ties between West Bank Palestinians and Jordan."

It expressed hope that dialogue between His Majesty King Hussein and PLO leader Yasser Arafat would hasten the end of Israel's occupation of territories seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

News of the Jordanian decision to recall the Parliament was headlined by the pro-PLO Al Fajr newspaper. But its editors told Reuters they refrained from editorial comment because they did not fully understand the move.

Abu Odeh: Arafat was aware of move to recall Parliament

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had been aware of Jordan's intention to recall the Lower House of Parliament before it was announced in Amman last week, outgoing information minister Adnan Abu Odeh was quoted as saying Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti daily, Al Ra'i Al Aam quoted Mr. Abu Odeh as saying that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Mr. Arafat heads, realises

that the Jordanian move to restore parliamentary life to the country has no bearing on the organisation's role as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan believes that the restoration of parliamentary life to the country has nothing to do with the PLO's representation nor with any decision the organisation may take in the Palestinian problem, Mr. Abu Odeh added.

Arab leaders phone Hussein

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received telephone calls from President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Sheikh Khalifah bin Hamad Al Thani, emir of Qatar, and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel who enquired about the King's health. The Arab leaders wished King Hussein a speedy recovery, and the King expressed appreciation to the leaders for their concern.

King Hussein was hospitalised Monday evening after being found suffering from a bleeding stomach ulcer, but was reported by his doctor to be in good and stable condition Tuesday. A bulletin issued by the King's private physician said that the King will have to remain in hospital for a few days more.

50 killed in Sofia air crash

VIENNA (R) — Fifty people were killed when a Bulgarian Air Force jet crashed Tuesday night as it prepared to land at Sofia airport in the country's worst disaster for more than 10 years.

The Soviet-designed Tupolev TU-134 airliner was on a routine flight from East Berlin to Sofia, the official BTA news agency said. Western diplomats in the capital said it hit the ground two kilometres short of the runway.

A BTA report received in Vienna said the dead included all 45 passengers, seven of them East Germans, and five crew.

Diplomats contacted by telephone in Sofia said Bulgarian authorities had still not established a precise list of the victims. Turkish diplomatic sources said they were informed that nine Turks were among the dead.

East German diplomats confirmed that their nationals were believed to be among those killed but could not verify that it was seven.

A West German embassy official said it had not been ruled out that West Germans may also have been on board. He said he had been told the full passenger list was not yet available because some of those on board were transit passengers.

Diplomatic sources said they had reliably learned that no U.S., British or British Commonwealth passengers were on board.

One diplomat said it was smogging in Sofia Tuesday night around the time of the crash, 1738 GMT. "But it was nothing serious, and they don't hesitate to close the airport if the weather gets bad," he said.

The Berlin-Sofia route is commonly used by travellers on their way to Turkey from East and West Germany, but the destinations of Tuesday's passengers were also unknown.

NATO says Soviets site more missiles

BRUSSELS (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) said Wednesday the Soviet Union had deployed nine new SS-20 medium-range nuclear missiles in the last month while the first U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles were being deployed in Western Europe.

A statement by the Atlantic alliance's special group on medium-range missiles said Moscow had completed a further SS-20 base in

the eastern Soviet Union, bringing its arsenal of the triple-warhead rockets to 378.

"In the light of this buildup — which continued throughout the first six rounds of the Geneva negotiations — it is particularly difficult to understand the Soviet contention that the beginning of NATO deployments in any way justified their discontinuing the negotiations," the statement said.

A senior U.S. official, speaking after the NATO group's first meeting since the Western missiles became operational, told reporters that NATO had withdrawn one warhead for every new missile it deployed in Western Europe, Britain and Italy.

He declined to specify which warheads had been removed but NATO sources said they were ageing nuclear air defence missiles and Pershing-1A systems with a shorter range than the Pershing-2.

Howe calls for change in Israeli policy

RIYADH (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe called at a news conference in Saudi Arabia Wednesday for radical change in Israeli policy to help get Middle East negotiations started.

Mr. Howe spoke after talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who told the press that he understood "implementation is beginning" of a new Saudi-mediated security plan designed to stop the factional fighting in Lebanon.

Mr. Howe, on a Middle East tour that began in Egypt on Monday, later had an audience with King Fahd and was flying on to Syria.

He said the Israelis should radically change their policies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and take a constructive new look at President Reagan's September, 1982, proposals for restarting Arab-Israeli talks on a Middle East settlement.

Mr. Howe reiterated a point he made in Cairo that in the view of Britain and its European allies, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "must be associated with peace negotiations."

Sir Geoffrey's prepared statement went on: "The process would be greatly helped if the PLO were to make unambiguously clear its willingness to recognise the right of Israel to its own supporters in the Fateh movement, and after three days of talks issued a statement tacitly supporting Mr. Arafat's policy of closer ties with Jordan and Egypt. The statement described the PLO leader's meeting with the Egyptian president as "an individualistic move" and "an organisational error."

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Egypt, which was ostracised by most of the Arab World after its separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, will not occur again.

Earlier, the Fateh Central committee met to discuss Mr. Arafat's unilateral move, which was initially denounced by some

of his own supporters in the Fateh movement, and after three days of talks issued a statement tacitly supporting Mr. Arafat's policy of closer ties with Jordan and Egypt. The statement described the PLO leader's meeting with the Egyptian president as "an individualistic move" and "an organisational error."

Furthermore, the statement reiterated the Fateh Central Committee's rejection of any peace initiative "which does not recognise the rights of the Palestinians to return to their homeland and to self-determination and to set up an independent Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied territories."

(Continued on page 3)

Lebanese army poised for rapid deployment Beirut warns against delays in implementing security plan

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government held its troops ready Wednesday for rapid deployment under a comprehensive security plan and said further delays in finalising it could lead to immense dangers.

Military sources said army units were held ready throughout the day as the government awaited the outcome of diplomatic efforts to overcome obstacles blocking the plan's implementation.

"A Cabinet statement said: 'It has become clear that delays in activating the plan may lead to immense dangers.'"

The situation could turn particularly hazardous in southern Lebanon, it said, "where the responsibilities of the army, in the event of any sudden Israeli moves, require its freedom of movement as defined under the security plan."

This appeared refer to the possibility of an Israeli pullout from southern Lebanon before the army could move in to take over. Under the security plan the army is to take up positions close to Israeli-held territory.

The Beirut government fears a sudden vacuum in the south would lead to a full-scale factional war

similar to the one which broke out in the Shouf mountains last September.

Druze fighters in the Shouf drove out right-wing forces and advanced to within 12 kilometres of the capital before the Lebanese army held them off.

The cabinet statement was the latest indication of government impatience at continued delays in overcoming opposition approval for the plan.

Troops moved unexpectedly out of their barracks Tuesday night to staging points around Beirut but the government called off the deployment after failing to secure the approval of Druze opposition leader Walid Junblat.

Political observers said the troop movements showed the government's frustration at Mr. Junblat's objections, seen as an attempt to pressure the government into political concessions outside the terms of the security plan.

As the troops waited Wednesday, fighting broke out between the army and Shiite militiamen in Beirut's southern suburbs where an unidentified person was killed by sniper fire.

Several shells fell on the coastal township of Khaleh further south, where the army faces Druze militiamen in the nearby hills.

A security committee grouping representatives of the army and the rival factions met Wednesday and worked out yet another ceasefire.

U.S. special envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Beirut and official sources said he would travel to Damascus to pave the way for a new meeting between the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia in Morocco next Monday.

Saudi optimistic

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Wednesday "implementation is beginning" of a Saudi mediated security plan designed to the factional fighting in Lebanon.

Prince Saud, speaking at a press conference which was also attended by visiting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, was replying to reporters' questions on the meeting he had here on Lebanon last weekend with foreign and Syrian ministers. "All showed pleasure in having the agreement finalised," the Saudi foreign minister stated.

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Labour urges unilateral Israeli pullout

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition Labour Party, which has surged ahead of the government in recent opinion polls, would unilaterally withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon without insisting on the simultaneous pullout by Syria, the party's foreign affairs spokesman said Wednesday.

Abba Eban, a former foreign minister, told Reuters in an interview: "Our policy is cut it short, get loose, disengagement."

He said the May 17 troop withdrawal accord between Israel and Lebanon, based on the promise of simultaneous withdrawal by Syria and Israel, was absurd since it allowed Syria to dictate Israeli troop movements.

"Under that accord, (Syrian President) Hafez Al Assad can decide when the Israeli defence forces can leave. That's an absurdity."

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Wednesday that an

immediate Israeli pullout from South Lebanon "would plunge the country into anarchy," and that Israel would be foolish to drop its demand for a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal.

The right-wing Likud coalition of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been agonising over its Lebanon policy as well as over a crippling economic crisis.

Early elections are widely predicted for this year and the most recent opinion poll shows Labour winning 57 parliamentary seats to 41 for Likud in Israel's 120-seat Knesset.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres said Tuesday the government would fall within weeks. Mr. Eban, who would be foreign minister in a Labour government, predicted elections would take place by early summer.

Mr. Eban called it an illusion to think Israel could expel Syria from Lebanon and said the United States

"must have been completely misinformed" to have thought that could occur.

"Why should Syria move out just because we want them to? Supposing we fought them. They would be back again. Nothing could be more successful than the strike we made in June 1982."

"We destroyed 96 aircraft and all their missiles. So they came back with 161 aircraft and the better missiles... if we could wave a wand and get back the old missiles most Israelis would be 'quite happy.'"

He said a Labour government would favour combining a Lebanese force in the south with an international presence and Israeli air surveillance. A strong deterrent would be maintained so that Israel could go back in if needed, he said.

Israeli military recommends withdrawal, page 2

Islamic ministers start 3-day meeting today

RABAT (R) — Foreign ministers from some 40 countries start a three-day meeting here Thursday to draft an agenda for the fourth Islamic Summit, at which conflicts in the Middle East, the Gulf and Afghanistan will be the major themes.

The talks come shortly after a reconciliation between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Diplomats said last month's meeting between PLO chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would strengthen the hand of Arab moderates pressing for Egypt's return to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The PLO, Sudan, Chad, and a number of Arab moderates supported Egypt's readmission at last month's Islamic foreign ministers' conference in Dhaka.

Although it will not be on the official agenda, Egypt's readmission is expected to be a main topic at the Rabat ministerial conference, diplomats said.

Egypt was suspended from the OIC and Arab League in 1979 when it signed a peace treaty with Israel and OIC's sources in Rabat said it had not been invited to attend the Islamic summit due to its suspension in 1979.

On Monday, Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Jalloud said in Damascus that Libya would boycott the Islamic summit if Egypt attended.

Egyptian sources in Rabat said Egypt itself would not take the initiative to return and noted that President Mubarak had repeatedly affirmed: "We do not want to embarrass anybody."

In an interview with the Moroccan News Agency (MAP), OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti said the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq would be a dominant theme at the conference although he said the conflict "is entering its fourth year without the slightest ray of hope that it will be extinguished."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati walked out of the Dhaka ministerial meeting when some Arab countries tabled a motion thanking Iraq for responding to peace initiatives to end war.

U.S. senators say Marines must stay

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The political consequences of withdrawing American Marines from Lebanon "would be disastrous" for the United States and more economic and military aid should be given to the Gemayel government to prevent Syria from becoming the dominant force in the Middle East, according to U.S. Senators John Tower and John Warner.

Sen. Tower and Sen. Warner issued the statement after conferring with President Reagan Jan. 10, following their seven-day fact-finding trip to the Middle East.

They visited Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and all four national contingents in Lebanon during their Jan. 2-9 visit.

A pullout of the Marines "could have very long term adverse effects on the ability of the United States to work diplomatically and

otherwise in that part of the world," said Sen. Warner.

"The Syrians probably want to dominate that region," said Sen. Tower. "Considering the... relationship between Syria and the Soviet Union... although we must accept a certain amount of Syrian influence in Lebanon, we cannot permit every aspect of settlement to be dictated by Damascus."

Sen. Tower told reporters that removing the Marines to offshore naval vessels would have "essentially the same effect" as complete withdrawal.

In a joint statement they encouraged President Reagan and Congress to provide additional aid to Lebanon. In response to questions, however, they said they did not know how much was needed.

The Lebanese army is becoming "a true fighting force" according to Sen. Warner, but it is "in bad need of certain military items."

Chad peace talks may be abandoned

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Efforts to get warring Chadian factions to talk peace may be abandoned temporarily if no progress has been made by the end of the week, an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) official said Wednesday.

The talks, organised by the OAU, were due to start on Monday. But Chadian President Hissene Habre decided not to come to Addis Ababa himself and all efforts to get the rival groups round the same table have failed so far.

OAU's chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian head of state, has held almost non-stop talks with the various groups represented here with no apparent success.

"I don't think this will go on beyond the 13th Friday, but let's give 'chairman Mengistu a chance,'" OAU spokesman Paul Fouda said. The talks were originally due to end on Friday.

He would not say what was preventing the talks from starting, but diplomats generally believe that

Mr. Habre's absence is the main stumbling block.

The Chadian president decided not to come after his main rival, Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, was met at the airport by Mr. Mengistu. Mr. Habre said this gave the rebel leader equal status with himself.

Mr. Habre had made clear beforehand that he would attend only if he was welcomed as "head of state" and the other delegates just as heads of factions.

Mr. Fouda told reporters Mr. Mengistu met the government delegation, which is led by Interior Minister Taher Guinassou, Wednesday morning.

Diplomats believe that Mr. Goukouni, whose Libyan-backed forces control the northern half of Chad, has refused to meet Mr. Guinassou in the belief that meaningful negotiations can only be held with Mr. Habre.

Some diplomats said that France, Chad's former colonial power, was putting pressure on

Mr. Habre to change his mind and come to Addis Ababa.

Last summer France sent 2,500 troops to Chad to halt Mr. Goukouni's southward advance and the country has since been effectively partitioned into a rebel-held north and government-controlled centre and south.

But while France has strongly supported Mr. Habre diplomatically and militarily, its involvement is expensive and President Francois Mitterrand is eager to find a solution to the crisis.

French and Libyan diplomats based in the Ethiopian capital appear to be active behind the scenes in efforts to bring the rival factions to the negotiating table.

Reporters Tuesday saw French Ambassador Alain Bry at the hotel where Mr. Goukouni is staying and he was widely assumed that he had met the rebel leader.

No comment was available from the French embassy or Mr. Goukouni aides on the question.

Egypt becoming focus of peace in Mideast

By Dina Matar

CAIRO — Egypt, the only Arab state to make peace with Israel, appears to have become the focus of fresh peace moves to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shunned by the majority of Arab states for signing the 1979 Camp David peace accords with Israel, Egypt also seems to have made headway in breaking its isolation in the Arab World.

Political sources here saw a controversial meeting between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last month as a turning point towards achieving a settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Mr. Arafat, whose meeting with Mr. Mubarak raised a storm in the region, made Cairo his first stop after his forced evacuation from Tripoli, north Lebanon, last month.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe also chose to visit Cairo first before heading for Riyadh and Damascus on his first Middle East tour since he took office last June.

After talks with Mr. Mubarak Tuesday, Sir Geoffrey told reporters the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Sir Arafat chairs, "has to be as-

sisted with prospects of achieving a settlement" in the Middle East.

Egyptian officials have been pressing Britain and the rest of the European Community to persuade Washington to talk to the PLO.

Political sources here said Sir Geoffrey's remarks about PLO involvement in peace efforts, which echoed the Egyptian line, could reflect Egypt's increased standing in the region after its years in the Arab wilderness.

But, they added, it was not clear whether Egypt was coordinating with Jordan on a joint peace approach.

Under President Reagan's September 1981 peace initiative, envisaging Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied territories in association with Jordan, Jordan would be the main negotiating partner on behalf of the Palestinians in talks with Israel.

The political sources here said Mr. Mubarak, who welcomed the plan, must have urged Mr. Arafat to accept it as the only practical option that could provide a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Nonetheless, the Arab League members, which broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt a year ago, have not yet restored them. Such a move,

the sources said, could not be made without a summit meeting of Arab leaders and the scrapping of the 1978 Baghdad summit resolution calling for a boycott of Cairo.

Arab leaders are to hold a summit in Riyadh on March 31. The sources said previous efforts to bring Egypt back to the divided Arab family had been blocked by Saudi Arabia.

Egyptian newspapers this week gave prominent coverage to a visit to Cairo by Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz, the first by a senior member of the Saudi Arabian Royal Family since the Saudis broke off relations in the wake of Camp David.

Prince Faisal told reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak for five hours that Egypt remained the local point of the Arab World, sparking speculation of a thaw in the two countries' relations.

Egypt has not shown great concern over the continued lack of diplomatic relations with Arab countries, conceding that ties effectively exist with most of the Arab states.

The political sources said Cairo would rather continue its slow winning of moderate Arab states, such as Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Only

such Arab radicals as Syria, Libya and South Yemen continue to ostracise Egypt and have no diplomatic representation here.

Iraq, which pioneered the boycott of Egypt, was the first country to move shyly back, although it has stopped short of restoring full diplomatic ties in the form of an embassy.

Provoked by its need for support in its Gulf war with Iran, Baghdad has increased the number of its diplomats in Cairo from 11 to 31 and established a military mission. Cairo, for its part, has provided Baghdad with military aid.

Arab leaders have not yet invited Mr. Mubarak to visit their countries or themselves visited Cairo, but the Egyptian leader met several Arab heads of state at the Non-Aligned Summit in New Delhi last March.

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was quoted as saying this week that he would come to Cairo if he were not busy with the Iran-Iraq war and other issues. Mr. Mubarak, in reply, said Mr. Hussein was always welcome here.

There have been a few, though increasingly more frequent visits to Cairo by ranking Arab officials and to Arab capitals by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Presidential Adviser

Osama Baz.

Political sources said that, while continuing its discreet contacts with the Arab World, it also seeks to regain its seat in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), which would be a major boost for its position in the Muslim World.

The OIC, from which Egypt was suspended in 1979, is holding a summit in Casablanca, Morocco, next week.

Arab analysts expect that after Prince Faisal's talks with Mr. Mubarak, Saudi Arabia might not object to a motion by other Islamic countries to bring Egypt back to the Islamic grouping.

Egypt also takes a seat at the United Nations Security Council this month and is keen to make full use of the stim.

This week, Mr. Ali sent messages to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and members of the Security Council expressing his country's concern over Israeli practices on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the application of Israeli laws there.

Egyptian officials fear Israeli measures could lead to a de facto annexation of Arab lands which Israel has taken by force of arms. Mr. Ali also sent a similar message to India as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Denktash renews call for talks

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash Wednesday renewed his call for a resumption of talks for a settlement on the divided island, but fiercely attacked the Greek-Cypriot majority for refusing to negotiate.

In a statement issued in the Turkish sector of Nicosia, Mr. Denktash reiterated proposals he made on Jan. 2 saying he was sincere in his search for peace and a solution to the island's problems.

His proposals provided for the reopening of United Nations supervision of Nicosia International Airport and a part of the city of Famagusta, both closed since Cyprus was split in two by the 1974 Turkish invasion.

Mr. Denktash also offered economic, cultural and social contacts between the two communities as a means of opening the way for a

resumption of inter-communal talks which broke down last year.

The Greek-Cypriot government, internationally recognised as the legitimate Cyprus administration, rejected the proposals. It refuses to negotiate until Mr. Denktash withdraws independence declared by the Turkish Cypriots last November.

Mr. Denktash said the Greek Cypriots had not given serious consideration to his proposals and were "destroying every positive move and refusing to negotiate."

The only way to a solution was through direct talks between the two communities, he added.

"Are the Greek-Cypriot leaders opposed to peace and agreement between the two communities... do they object to the taking of steps which will establish goodwill and mutual trust?" Mr. Denktash asked.



Rauf Denktash.

He will be presenting his proposals, dubbed "the goodwill proposals" here, at the Islamic Summit opening in Casablanca on Jan. 16.

Israeli VP says military recommends pullout

OCUPPEL JERUSALEM (R) — An Israeli parliamentarian Tuesday said the army's planning branch had recommended withdrawal from South Lebanon as soon as possible.

Shulamit Aloni of the Likud's Right Party said during a parliamentary debate on Israel's 14-month occupation of South Lebanon that a military document recommended a review of Israeli policy toward Syria because there

was no prospect of the Syrians leaving Lebanon in the near future.

He said the army planning branch added that an Israeli withdrawal would depend on security arrangements to prevent "terrorist" attacks on Israeli border settlements.

An army spokesman was unable to confirm that the document addressed to a military document. Israel's chief of staff said recently that Israel could live with a continued Syrian deployment in Lebanon if it presented no threat to Israel's northern border.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has ruled out a unilateral Israeli withdrawal, but army officers and government officials, including Defence Minister Moshe Arens, have recently made contradictory statements indicating that a limited pullout is being considered.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

| JORDAN TELEVISION | BBC WORLD SERVICE |
|---|---|
| 639, 720, 1413 KHz. | 639, 720, 1413 KHz. |
| MAIN CHANNEL | 06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News: 24 Hours Stereo Summary 07:30 Peabody Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 09:30 Country Style 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:30 Arabic Play 10:45 The Palace of Signs 11:00 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:30 British Press Review 11:35 The World Today 11:50 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Edward Elgar: The Making of a Composer 12:15 Monitor 12:30 Frank Miller Goes Into... 13:00 World News: 24 Hours News Summary 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 The Reith Lectures 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network U.K. 15:45 The Pleasure of Your 16:30 Discovery 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 The Reith Lectures 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Monitor 19:40 The Week in Wales 20:30 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:30 News Summary 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:43 Stock Market Report: Look Ahead 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 A Jolly Good Show 23:15 John Peel 23:20 In the Mezzanine 23:30 Business Matters 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 Merckham Navy Programme 01:30 Meridian |
| FOREIGN CHANNEL | |
| 18:00 French Programme | |
| 19:00 News in French | |
| 20:30 News in Hebrew | |
| 21:10 Comedy: Benson | |
| 22:00 Drama: St. Elmo here | |
| 22:10 News in English | |
| 22:30 Movie of the Week: Who Killed Centfold Model - Barbara Eden, Joseph Viscuso | |
| RADIO JORDAN | |
| 555 KHz. AM 990 KHz. FM | |
| 6:30 Light Music | |
| 7:00 Newsweek | |
| 7:30 Morning Show | |
| 8:00 News Summary | |
| 8:30 Morning Show | |
| 9:00 Pop Session | |
| 9:30 News Summary | |
| 10:00 Pop Session | |
| 10:30 News Bulletin | |
| 11:00 Instrumentals | |
| 11:30 Just A Minute | |
| 12:00 Concert Hour | |
| 12:30 News Summary | |
| 13:00 Instrumentals | |
| 13:30 Old Favorites | |
| 14:00 Religious Programme | |
| 14:30 Pop Session | |
| 15:00 News Summary | |
| 15:30 Good Old Days | |
| 16:00 Music | |
| 16:30 Date with a Star | |
| 17:00 Evening Show | |
| 17:30 News Summary | |
| 18:00 Evening Show | |
| 18:30 News Summary | |
| 19:00 Close Down | |
| FOR FRIDAY | |
| 21:30 Local Variety Programme | |
| 22:00 Arabic Series | |
| 23:00 News in Arabic | |
| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
| MAIN CHANNEL | |
| 10:00 Koran | |
| 10:30 Children's Programme | |
| 10:40 Pope's Message | |
| 10:50 Programme on Sports & Space | |
| 11:10 Religious Programme | |
| 12:00 The Impassible | |
| 12:30 Local Plan | |
| 13:00 Secret | |
| 13:30 Happa Valley | |
| 14:00 Happa Valley | |
| 14:30 Happa Valley | |
| 15:00 Religious Programme | |
| 15:30 News in Arabic | |
| 16:00 Arabic Series | |
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| 17:00 Evening Show | |
| 17:30 News Summary | |
| 18:00 Evening Show | |
| 18:30 News Summary | |
| 19:00 Close Down | |

| TODAY'S EVENTS | EXHIBITIONS |
|--|--|
| * Painting exhibition by Ulfen Risk at the Royal Cultural Centre from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. | |
| LECTURE | MEETING |
| * "New Communication Technologies" lecture by Dr. Douglas Boyd at American Centre at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. | * Computer club general meeting at the French Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday. |
| CULTURAL CENTRES | SERVICE CLUBS |
| Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41521 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37141 Goethe Institute 41493 Soviet Cultural Centre 44243 Spanish Cultural Centre 24449 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Hays Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.M.C.A. 664251 American Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 84355 | Lower Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m. |
| MUSEUMS | CHURCHES |
| Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Jerash 14th to 18th centuries. The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51761. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Galleries: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a | St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24591. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Leveidh, 37411. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, 661757. Orthodox: Abdali, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751. |
| PRAYER TIMES | ARRIVALS |
| 06:14 Fajr 06:37 (Sunrise) Shriyah 11:44 Dhuhr 14:32 Asr 16:51 Maghrib 18:14 Isha | 07:00 Cairo (EA) 07:05 Baghdad (IA) 07:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 07:20 Jerusalem (IA) 07:30 Doha (RJ) 07:45 Kuwait (RJ) 07:50 Cairo (RJ) 08:00 Damascus (RJ) 08:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 08:10 Beirut (RJ) 08:15 Ankara (IA) 08:20 Baghdad (IA) 08:25 Doha (RJ) 08:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN) 08:40 Cairo (RJ) 08:45 Kuwait (IA) 08:50 Cairo (RJ) 08:55 Istanbul (IA) 09:00 London (RJ) 09:05 Athens (RJ) 09:10 New York, Vienna (RJ) 09:15 Amsterdam (IA) 09:20 Beirut (RJ) 09:25 Cairo (RJ) 09:30 Baghdad (RJ) 09:35 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) |
| DEPARTURES | WEATHER |
| 05:45 Cairo (RJ) 06:30 Damascus (RJ) 06:35 Beirut (RJ) 06:40 Damascus, Frankfurt (LN) 07:00 Athens (RJ) 07:40 Damascus, Paris (IA) 08:00 Cairo (EA) 08:05 Beirut (MEA) 08:10 Damascus, Athens, Geneva, ISR 08:45 Athens (RJ) 08:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 09:00 Larnaca (LN) 09:05 Cairo (RJ) 09:10 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 09:15 Paris, London (RJ) 09:20 Riyadh, Dhahran (Saudi) 09:25 Cairo (RJ) 09:30 Baghdad (RJ) | Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. There will be clouds at different altitudes. Light and variable winds will be changing to southerly moderate. An increase in temperature is expected. In Arabia, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C: Amman 10/16 Aqaba 11/22 Deserts 3/17 Jordan Valley 9/22 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent. |
| AMMAN AIRPORT | EMERGENCIES |
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| ARRIVALS | HOSPITALS |
| 07:00 Cairo (EA) 07:05 Baghdad (IA) 07:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 07:20 Jerusalem (IA) 07:30 Doha (RJ) 07:45 Kuwait (RJ) 07:50 Cairo (RJ) 08:00 Damascus (RJ) 08:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 08:10 Beirut (RJ) 08:15 Ankara (IA) 08:20 Baghdad (IA) 08:25 Doha (RJ) 08:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN) 08:40 Cairo (RJ) 08:45 Kuwait (IA) 08:50 Cairo (RJ) 08:55 Istanbul (IA) 09:00 London (RJ) 09:05 Athens (RJ) 09:10 New York, Vienna (RJ) 09:15 Amsterdam (IA) 09:20 Beirut (RJ) 09:25 Cairo (RJ) 09:30 Baghdad (RJ) 09:35 Muscat, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) | Hussein Medical Centre 81313-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 4431-4 Akhili Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jafar Aman Maternity 42362 Malhas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shmashan 66471-1 Shmashan Hospital 66471-1 University Hospital 84545 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Muasher Hospital 66727-1 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajreh 77111-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marja 91611 |
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| MARKET PRICES | DEPARTURES |
| Upper/lower price in Jds per kg. Apple (Double Red) 500 550 Apple (Golden) 500 550 Apple (Starline) 500 550 Apple (Smith) 550 580 Apple (Local) 500 550 Banana 370 420 Banana (Mukammal) 230 280 Beans 320 380 Cabbage 60 80 Carrot 30 40 Cauliflower (white) 80 90 Cucumber (large) 230 280 Cucumber (small) 350 400 Dates 180 190 Eggplant (large) 90 100 Eggplant (small) 80 90 Lips 400 500 Garlic 400 550 Grape (black) 700 800 Grapefruit 100 150 Guava 400 500 Lemon 140 180 Marrow (large) 150 200 Marrow (small) 150 200 Melon 100 140 Olives 350 400 Onion (dry) 150 200 Onion (wet) 150 200 Orange (Abu Surra) 230 280 Orange (Shammout) 170 210 Pears 700 800 Pepper (sweet) 200 250 Pepper (hot green) 200 250 Potatoes 170 210 | 09:50 Muscat, Dhahran (RJ) 10:00 Dubai, Bahrain (RJ) 10:15 Beirut, Umm al-Riqa (RJ) 10:30 Muscat, Dhahran, Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ) 14:00 Kuwait (KA) 14:30 Larnaca (LN) 15:30 Cairo (RJ) 17:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) 17:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:35 London, Paris (RJ) 18:30 Paris, Beirut (IA) 19:05 Cairo (EA) 20:20 Athens (IA) 20:30 London (BA) 20:45 Baghdad (RJ) 21:05 Cairo (EA) 21:30 Baghdad (RJ) 21:45 Doha, Katar (RJ) 22:00 London (BA) 22:05 Cairo (EA) 22:10 London (BA) |

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£2m British loan to help equip vocational schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British government are to provide a £2 million loan to purchase equipment for the five vocational secondary schools for boys being conducted by the Ministry of Education as part of the World Bank's fifth Education Project.

The schools are located at Tafila, Karak, South Shouneh and Marj Al Hamam.

Students will be able to follow courses in a number of industrial specialisations including industrial electronics, car and farm machinery maintenance, instrumentation, plumbing, and metalwork.

The list of equipment for the schools has been drawn up by the Ministry of Education and delivery will take place during 1985.

RSS to study handling of dangerous chemicals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation is to finance a study by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on the handling of dangerous chemical substances and ways of guarding against their effects, according to an agreement signed at the Arab Bank, which finances the foundation, here Wednesday.

Under the agreement, the RSS will conduct the study by carrying out a comprehensive survey of dangerous chemical substances being sold in Jordanian markets. The study will define the properties contained within the products and will outline the procedures for storing and employing

such substances. The agreement was signed for the RSS by its acting director, Dr. Fakhreddin Al Daghestani, and Mr. Abdul Hamid Shoman, the Arab Bank's chairman of the board of directors.

The foundation, which was founded in 1978, has financed scientific research in the Arab World conducted both by institutions or individuals. The foundation also offers awards to Arab scientists and intellectuals for remarkable achievements in science, agriculture, medicine, and other similar fields that contribute towards the development of the Arab World.

JEA budget announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has approved the Jordan Electricity Authority's (JEA) 47 million budget for the year 1984, according to a report published in the Arabic daily Al-Dustour Monday.

Revenues for 1983 were originally budgeted at about JD 61.5 million, but have now been re-estimated at nearly JD 64 million. The 1984 budgeted revenue now stands at JD 86.7 million which consists of:

Internal revenues JD 43,135,000 comprising:

Energy sales JD 41,800,000
Cement plant's revenues JD 700,000

Other miscellaneous revenues JD 635,000

Capital revenues JD 43,546,000, comprising:

Subscribers shares JD 681,000
Rural subscriber tariff JD 6,000,000
Development bonds JD 6,000,000

Loans JD 27,765,000
Treasury contribution JD 4,100,000

Fuel support JD 4,500,000
The expenditure part of the budget broke down as follows:

Current expenditures JD 43,500,000 comprising:

Salaries, wages and allowances JD 4,000,000
Administrative and staff expenses JD 1,950,000

Fuels JD 30,000,000
Commissioning costs JD 1,100,000

Loan interests JD 3,500,000
Equipment, machines, cars and furniture JD 150,000

Capital expenditures JD 47,000,000

An estimated budget deficit of JD 1,500,000 is therefore budgeted for 1984 though in reality (this is expected by officials to be eradicated by savings made on expenditure and by improving revenues.

Swift Fateh moves manage to cool uproar

(Continued from page 1)

This reference, which implies rejection of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace proposal of September 1982, was apparently aimed at quelling radical accusations that Mr. Arafat's talks with Mr. Mubarak reflected a shift in the PLO leader's strategy towards Middle East peace efforts and towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict through American-made proposals.

The Reagan plan calls for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank in association with Jordan. Egypt supports the plan and describes it as the only viable plan at present to settle the Palestinian problem.

The three groups with which the Fateh leadership held intensive talks in Tunis, after the Central Committee statement, represent the middle ground between extremists and moderates in the PLO.

Envoys of the three factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, and the Palestinian Communist Party, later returned to Damascus to consult their Syrian-based leaders on the tentative agreement reached with Fateh.

Majority backs Arafat

Simultaneous meetings here of the PLO Executive Committee, with nine of its 14 members attending, were also a reflection of Mr. Arafat's overall control of the organisation. While the PFLP, the DFLP, the pro-Syrian Saiga and the Libyan-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command) (PFLP-GC) led by Ahmad Jibril, which are represented in the PLO Executive Committee with one member each, stayed away from the meetings along with an independent member, Mohsen Abu Maizer, the committee still had the quorum of nine.

At the end of its meetings, the Executive Committee decided to call for the 375-member Palestine National Council (PNC) into session in mid-February, according to Palestinian sources.

'Right and wrong'

PLO representative in South Yemen, Abbas Zaki said the

Fateh Revolutionary Council, the commando movement's link between the Central Committee and the rank and file, reviewed Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak in terms of "right and wrong" rather than judging whether it indicated "treason and irresponsibility," Mr. Arafat's move was not viewed through a perspective that it indicated a shift in the PLO chairman's position towards a solution to the Palestine problem nor as a tilt in favour of U.S. proposals for Middle East solutions, Mr. Zaki said.

"No element in the present Arab scene can force the Americans and Israelis to withdraw from any part of the occupied Palestinian land to make room for the PLO," Mr. Zaki asserted. "Therefore," he said, "it would be meaningless to consider Mr. Arafat's talks with Mr. Mubarak as an indication that the PLO leader was trying to enlist Cairo's support for a U.S.-backed Palestinian solution."

After the U.S.-sponsored Cairo treaty was signed between Egypt and Israel, Washington proclaimed the Arab state as one of its closest allies in the Middle East and Palestinian dissidents opposed to Mr. Arafat, backed by Syria and Libya, attacked the PLO leader's meeting with the Egyptian president and accused him of seeking "U.S.-sponsored solutions" through the intervention of Mr. Mubarak.

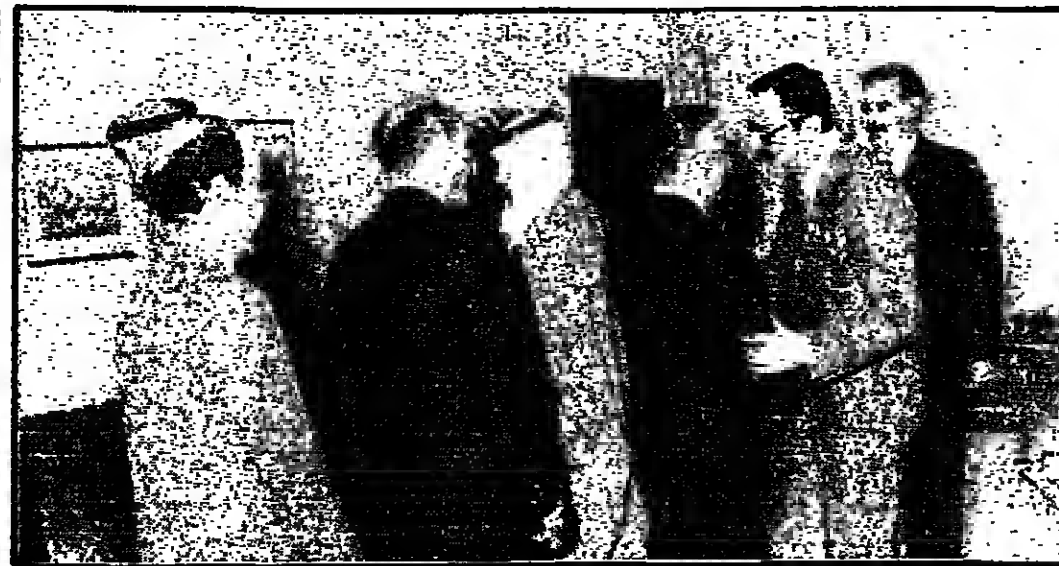
Committees formed

The Fateh Revolutionary Council has formed special committees to contact Arab governments on various levels. Mr. Zaki said. These committees, he added, represent those PLO organisations "which endorse the independent Palestinian decision-making process," and all future Fateh contacts with Arab governments will be through these committees.

Fateh moves swiftly

The decision to form these committees was taken as early as December in the South Yemen capital of Aden as a result of an agreement reached between Fateh, the PFLP, and the DFLP, according to Mr. Zaki.

This indicates that the Fateh leadership had initiated a dialogue with the other groups immediately after Mr. Arafat's arrival in North



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (second from right) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Suleiman Arar (right) Wednesday receive congratulations from former Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and others at the Prime Ministry (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

elive congratulations from former Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and others at the Prime Ministry (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Bridge shuts for repair

AMMAN (Petra) — The Prince Mohammad Bridge across the River Jordan is to close indefinitely from Thursday for repair, according to an announcement issued by the Public Security Department Wednesday.

It said that a date for reopening the bridge will be announced when the repair work has been completed.

Oil quality measures due

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with the chemistry department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), is to draw up measures to maintain the quality of fuel sold by petrol stations all over the country.

The programme is aimed at ensuring that oil products sold by these stations are in accordance with Jordanian specifications. A joint team from the ministry and the RSS will take samples of the oil on sale for tests.

Saplings planted

KARAK (Petra) — The Awqaf Directorate in the Karak Governorate, in cooperation with the agriculture department there, planted 2,500 saplings in South Mazraa Wednesday.

The acting Awqaf director in Karak, Saleh Al Aghawati, said that the place where the trees were planted covered an area of 120 dunums.

Arbor Day on Jan. 15

AMMAN (Petra) — Arbor Day will be celebrated in Jordan on Sunday, Jan. 15, according to an official communiqué issued by the Prime Ministry.

It said that Jan. 15 is to be considered as the official occasion but will not be celebrated as a public

holiday. All government departmental staff are expected to take part in tree-planting celebrations, the communiqué said.

The communiqué called in particular on university and school students as well as employees of other institutions to take an active part in these celebrations.

French water equipment suppliers expected here

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French economic delegation, which includes a number of specialists in the field of irrigation, water and water treatment projects equipments, is due to arrive here Sunday on a four-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit which is being organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry in co-operation with the foreign trade centre at the French embassy, the delegation will hold talks with a number of officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Amman Chamber of Industry as well as the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

On January 16, 17, 18 in the afternoons, the team will also hold open meetings with Jordanian economists and industrialists.

The chamber has distributed invitations to businessmen and industrialists in the country to participate at these meetings.

Yarmouk lecturer attends Cairo chemistry meeting

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University was represented at a conference on current trends in modern chemistry and the role of analytical chemistry in national development held in Cairo on Jan. 7.

Dr. Abdul Rahman Attiyat, who attended from the university

at the conference, said that it debated many working papers dealing with the current and future situation relating both to education and scientific research in the field of analytical chemistry as well as its application in the fields of biology, food production and environmental studies.

Dr. Attiyat added that he submitted a working paper on mineral analysis to the conference which was organised in co-operation with the Higher Council of Egyptian Universities, the Egyptian Chemical Society and the European Chemical Society.

Talks continue

Talks between Fateh and various other Palestinian factions are continuing, Mr. Qaddoumi said. He expressed appreciation for the stand adopted by the PFLP, DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party, which agreed to the compromise formula under which the three groups dropped calls for Mr. Arafat's ouster from the leadership. The agreement to the formula, Mr. Qaddoumi said, "foiled attempts aimed at setting up another Palestinian organisation to replace the PLO."

Mr. Qaddoumi was referring to reports from Damascus that the Libyan second-in-command, Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, was holding talks with Palestinian rebels in Syria and north Lebanon on forming an alternative PLO. Subsequent to the reports, Palestinian sources and political observers in Tunis said the PFLP and the DFLP, the two biggest grouping under the PLO after Fateh, would not succumb to Syrian or Libyan pressure to form a substitute organisation.

When the rebellion erupted last May, headed by a few Fateh officers based in north Lebanon after the PLO withdrawal from Beirut in 1982, one of the main demands of the dissidents were a collective leadership to replace the present PLO one.

Although it is still early to predict the prominent feature of future PLO policies, Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak seems to have paved the way for unanimously approved decisions rather than compromise formulas which used to characterise the organisation's moves.

King appoints new Upper House

(Continued from page 1)

during 1976-1979, minister of state for foreign affairs during 1979-1981 and became foreign minister in 1981 in Mr. Badran's cabinet.

The new court minister, Mr. Abu Odeh, had been information minister for the most part of the past 13 years. He also served for several months as chief of the Royal Court.

Mr. Abu Odeh was born in Nabulus in 1933 and graduated from Damascus in 1959. He worked as a teacher up to 1966 before becoming an officer at the General Intelligence Department where he worked up until 1970.

Mr. Abu Odeh worked as minister of culture, information and antiquities from 1971 until February 1972 when he became minister of culture and information, a post which he held until October 1972. He served as secretary-general of Arab National Union until 1973 before becoming minister of culture and information and then minister of information.

On Nov. 29, 1972 he was awarded the Independence Order, First Class.

Badran visits 'Obeidat, offers congratulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Outgoing Prime Minister Mudar Badran called at the Prime Ministry Wednesday and offered his congratulations to Mr. 'Obeidat on his appointment as the new prime minister.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar. Later, Mr. 'Obeidat received Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker who offered the prime

minister their congratulations.

Also on Wednesday, people from various walks of life, representing a cross section of the Jordanian society, visited the Prime Ministry to offer congratulations to Mr. 'Obeidat. They included members of the Upper

and Lower Houses of Parliament, former ministers, senior officials and high-ranking army officers as well as leading businessmen, directors of institutions, Chambers of Industry and Trade, tribal leaders, representatives of Palestinian refugees, provincial governors, heads of municipal and rural councils, leaders of religious communities, university presidents and deans, presidents of trade unions and other citizens.

Cabinet members also received well-wishers at their respective offices.

Police arrest gold thieves

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman police announced Wednesday the apprehension of a three member gang who were trying to sell stolen jewellery to goldsmiths and jewellers here.

A spokesman for the Public Security Department said that two of the group were caught as they were trying to sell gold jewellery in the capital's souk and promptly admitted that they were working with a third person.

During questioning the third person admitted stealing the jewels from a jeweller in Al Wihdat District, the spokesman said.

The gang was found to be in possession of JD 1,700 in cash along with gold bracelets, necklaces, rings and other pieces.

Thai trade team due

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Thai delegation, headed by the acting deputy foreign minister, and including the deputy trade minister and a number of high ranking advisers and specialists in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agri-

culture, will arrive in Amman Thursday on a one-day visit to Jordan.

The under-secretary at the Interior Ministry and eight deputies, in addition to a number of businessmen, will also arrive.

Refinery head reaffirms petrol delivery terms

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company's Director-General Sa'ad Al Tal reaffirmed his company's determination to make sure that the quantities of fuel ordered by and those supplied to petrol stations tally.

In answer to a question about

conducting an enquiry into past practices, Mr. Tal welcomed the idea "provided it is agreed upon and acceptable to all parties concerned."

Petrol station owners have complained recently about fuel deliveries from the refinery which, they claim, have not corresponded to the amounts ordered.

U.S. aide defends UNESCO withdrawal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States Information Service here will host a discussion Saturday with United States Assistant Secretary of State of International Organisations Affairs Gregory Newell who is currently visiting Jordan.

Mr. Newell is visiting Jordan to explain "Washington's recent decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)."

In Washington, prior to his departure for Jordan, Mr. Newell was quoted by the United States Information Agency (USIA) as saying that the United States will continue to work with other member states of the United Nations in promoting development in education, science, culture and communications.

Mr. Newell said the U.S. decision to withdraw from UNESCO

is not a move towards isolationism nor an abandonment of those countries and individuals fighting for democratic principles in international forums.

"In fact, we feel that the participation which we have in some 46 other multilateral organisations offers us continued, abundant opportunities to work with the rest of the member states of the world organisation in promoting not only democracy but further development, real development, in education, science, culture and communications," he said.

On "Telepress Conference" held on Jan. 6, a USIA-sponsored telephone question and answer session with journalists in London and Paris, Mr. Newell said that the United States not only continues to participate in the other organisations, but also it has strengthened its participation in the various food organisations in said.

Rome, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in Montreal and the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi.

He said that the United States did not expect other nations to follow the U.S. example, however. Six months ago, he said, after numerous unsuccessful meetings with the UNESCO secretary-general, the administration began a review of UNESCO itself, the conclusions of which were announced Dec. 29.

The Reagan administration also decided that the \$50-million annual U.S. contribution to UNESCO would be put into "other, existing alternative programmes for the development of education, social and natural sciences, culture and communication," Mr. Newell said.

Report seeks eradication of vagrancy

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Social Development has issued a study on beggars, tramps and homeless persons living in Jordanian cities, particularly Amman, and has worked out plans to alleviate the problem.

According to the study, copies of which were distributed to all concerned government departments, the ministry has established an office which aims to eliminate vagrancy within two years.

Assessment centre

The office will be expected to pick up beggars, vagrants and homeless people from the streets, and assemble them at a special centre where they will stay for 72 hours in order that their cases studied on an individual basis by ministry experts.

The office, after carefully studying the vagabonds' social context, will take decisions that will ensure a home and a better life for them.

Many of the tramps are mentally retarded or old people, the report notes, and are in need of medical attention. Therefore, the ministry plans to establish a special centre for them at Jweidch, south of Amman, to offer them social, medical and other necessary care or treatment facilities.

The centre will be initially provided with 30 beds, and specialists and social workers will offer help to and make a study of each case.

Some of the homeless people will be offered financial help and the old people referred to homes for the aged, while the mentally retarded will be offered treatment by the health authorities, the study said.

Young children

Also, according to the study, a number of minors and young children have been found homeless and destitute in the streets of Amman. These youngsters, whom



Homeless vagabonds in Amman congregating together (File photo)

it says normally end up becoming street vendors, will be taken care of, either through juvenile care institutions or in cooperation with the children's relatives.

The study was made in a survey conducted on 600 cases of vagrants and other homeless persons who have turned into heggars, roaming the streets thus resulting in a social problem.

Some of those scrutinised were referred to court, others were released and the old people put into homes.

Some of the non-Jordanians, were deported, the study said.

According to the report, most of the beggars are not in fact needy persons but have taken up heggery having found it a lucrative business.

Supervisory body

The study proposed the formation of a committee, grouping representatives from the ministries of social development, health, justice, interior and education as well as the Amman Municipality, voluntary and charitable societies, and the Social Security Corporation, in order to supervise the operation.

The ministry has allocated

funds in this year's budget to launch a campaign to combat heggery. Specially equipped vehicles will now through the Amman streets

12 hours a day to pick up beggars. At least JD 10,000 will be spent on the operation, a ministry source said.

AIR FRANCE

الخطوط الجوية الفرنسية

Schedule as of Jan. 4, 1984

AF 142/Wednesday - Saturday
Paris/CDG Dep. 10H35
Amman Arr. 18H00

AF 143/Thursday - Sunday
Amman Dep. 07H50
Paris/CDG Arr. 13H45

For enquiries please call:
Air France Tel. 44771
Bestours Tel. 37171

N.B. All flights via Damascus

Riyadh: More assertive role in Mideast diplomacy

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia is playing a more assertive role in Middle East diplomacy but will still resist any pressures to have it act as the catalyst of the United States, according to Western diplomats in the kingdom.

Fez plan

Among Saudi Arabian activities they cited King Fahd's initiative that led to the Arab League adopting its first Middle East peace plan at a summit in Fez, Morocco, in 1982.

They also cited the active mediation of Saudi Arabia in Lebanon and its persistent efforts to try to improve relations between Iraq and Syria and to promote co-operation in defence and economic affairs among the Arab Gulf oil-exporting states.

But some Foreign Ministry officials in Jeddah, and possibly some members of the royal family, wondered whether the kingdom, in promoting the Fez peace plan had perhaps stepped beyond the bounds of traditional Saudi Ara-

bian caution, a diplomat in Jeddah said.

Washington could certainly not expect Saudi Arabia to take initiatives that could not command the support of an Arab consensus or endanger its relations with radical Syria, he and others said.

No comment

Saudi Arabia, for instance, has studiously avoided comment on the Dec. 22 visit by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to Egypt, the country suspended from the Arab League because the late President Anwar Sadat signed a U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Saudi officials, when questioned, refer to a Saudi statement on Dec. 24 which said simply that the kingdom always went along with what the Palestinians themselves, led by the PLO, decided was in their best interests.

A government official added in a private comment: "I think the Saudis support Mr. Arafat, but as for Egypt, they will wait for an Arab conference."

Diplomats said they thought

Saudi Arabia probably wanted Egypt back in the Arab fold, and would like to see Jordan re-enter the peace process with co-operation from Mr. Arafat.

But it would remain wary of anything that would result in an irrevocable split between Arab moderates and radicals.

Strong foreign policy

Diplomats attributed the higher Saudi profile in Middle East affairs partly to the emergence of a strong foreign policy team under King Fahd, who, they said, had a shrewd understanding of international issues.

Known Prince Abdullah maintains links with Syria and Iraq while Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal can now draw on the experience of nearly a decade in external affairs.

The Information Minister, General Ali Al Shuaib, was for many years the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Beirut before being appointed to the royal cabinet last April and is among King Fahd's key advisers.

The Saudi ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sul-

tan, was another key team member, while King Fahd's personal envoy, businessman Rafiq Hariri, has been prominent in trying to mediate a halt to the fighting in Lebanon.

Points of weakness

The kingdom's awareness of its own vulnerability, meanwhile, is a pressing factor behind its efforts to resolve disputes in the surrounding region.

Saudi Arabia covers nearly 2.5 million sq. kilometres yet has a population of only about eight or nine million, of whom up to two million are probably immigrant workers.

The country depends for water increasingly on a few major desalination projects and is investing some \$75 billion in oil refineries, petrochemical plants and related projects in a drive to diversify the economy away from total dependence on what has proved to be a treacherous world market for crude oil.

Israel's 1979 air raid on Iraqi nuclear reactor in Baghdad and Iranian strikes early in the Gulf

war against Iraq demonstrated the vulnerability to accurate air attack on such costly installations.

Support for Iraq

Saudi Arabia has helped finance the Iraqi war effort and pumps about 200,000 barrels daily of its own oil on the Iraqi account, according to Western oil industry sources.

Fears that an infuriated Iran might lash out, and of the implications of the Iranian Islamic revolution generally, partly account for the effort that the Saudis are making to weld together the three-year-old Gulf Co-operation Council.

Scarcely a month goes by without some conference of ministers of the member states, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, meeting to discuss co-operation in economic affairs, defence, internal security or foreign and oil policy.

Close ties with the U.S.

Diplomats said, however, that

the United States remained the ultimate supporter of the security of Saudi Arabia and its oil fields and of the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the oil-bearing Gulf which Iran has threatened to shut in retaliation against Iraqi strikes.

Riyadh-based U.S. "AWACS" radar reconnaissance planes continue to oversee Saudi air space.

In such circumstances, the Saudis have to act with care to preserve their pan-Arab credentials and their status as guardians of Islam's holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Officials say privately that such "insensitive" moves by the Reagan administration as the recent strategic co-operation agreement with Israel make it more difficult for Riyadh to promote what it sees as positive elements in President Reagan's peace plan for the Middle East.

The Reagan proposals offered the Palestinians only autonomy in association with Jordan, if Israel could be negotiated out of the West Bank, rather than the independent state envisaged by the Arab League's Fez plan.

Line continues

WITH the appointment Wednesday of a new Upper House of Parliament, a new chief of the Royal Court and new court minister, Jordan completes major changes in its political leadership. What these changes will lead to is a good subject of debate, frankly, but the more interesting question remains whether any change will be felt soon, or in the near future.

Our guess is that the new government of Mr. Ahmad 'Obaidat, backed by and working closely with the reconstituted Lower House of Parliament and the new Upper House, will follow a political line similar to that of the Mudar Badran government and the now-dissolved National Consultative Council. This is only a guess — but there is good ground for it.

As His Majesty King Hussein pointed out in his letter of designation to Prime Minister 'Obaidat on Tuesday, our basic pre-occupation here in Jordan remains with the Palestine problem. The new government and Parliament are committed to the line pursued by Jordan throughout the years that an honourable and lasting settlement to the conflict in the Middle East must be reached, in close co-ordination with the Arab World, particularly the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and according to U.N. resolutions and international understanding on the issue. Where Jordan can play a bigger role and be more effective, regionally and internationally, in this regard is by working harder on two fronts. First at home, where our political and democratic institutions can be so strengthened as to boost the Kingdom's position even further vis-a-vis both friend and foe. And, secondly, by forging a new, more solid alliance with the PLO and continually striving for Arab solidarity to face the Israeli challenges and threat.

To say that the new government, the re-institution of the Lower House of Parliament and the other political changes in the leadership will take us away from our present line of thinking and practice, on our focal issue, is grossly unfair. To say that Jordan, by renewing the efforts of its leadership and reinvigorating its political institutions, is seeking to claim for itself the representation of the Palestinians, for any reason, we think is also totally untrue.

Soon enough, the new government will present its programme to both Houses of Parliament, and will be telling us what to expect. Our guess until then remains that people should not expect from it any earth-shaking changes.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Special relationship

THE ROYAL letter appointing Mr. Ahmad 'Obaidat as head of the new government emphasised the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and the need for the new cabinet to strive to regain Palestinian rights. The Palestine issue is for Jordan and the Arab world a central problem embodying their common struggle aimed at achieving common objectives. As King Hussein said in the letter, the Palestine issue influences Jordan's policies and is reflected in all its aspects of life.

He stressed the need for the new government to pursue the dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) because, he said, it represents "the sole and legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people and is an organisation that is striving to safeguard the higher Palestinian interest." Any aggression against the PLO and its independent decision is to be regarded as aggression against Jordan because it represents a people united with the Jordanian people who share the same fate, aspirations and goals. In his letter of reply, the new prime minister pledged his government's adherence to royal directives and its determination to carry out the King's instructions on the domestic and external fronts.

Al Dstour: Essential policies

THE LETTER of appointment from the King outlined the policies to be adopted by the new government of Mr. Ahmad 'Obaidat and drew up the guidelines to be followed by the new government on the domestic and external fronts. The most important part of these guidelines is that which concerns Jordan's relationship with the PLO and the Palestinian people. The King said in his letter that the Palestine problem is a central issue to both the Jordanian and Palestinian people and influences all national policies because the Palestinians and Jordanians have been involved into one united family sharing the same aspirations, struggle and common goals.

The royal message instructed the government to give due care to the strengthening of the armed forces which shield the nation against enemy aggression and asked the prime minister to pursue the dialogue with the PLO with the purpose of arriving at a formula on future action. On the Arab front, King Hussein voiced Jordan's determination to support Iraq and Lebanon to help them repel aggression and to safeguard their territorial integrity.

Sawt Al Shaab: Palestinian-Jordanian unity

A NEW chapter in Jordan's long march towards achieving progress and prosperity has begun with the formation of the new government. The royal guidelines directing the cabinet of Mr. Ahmad 'Obaidat will serve as a beacon to the ministers in their endeavours to serve their nation and King. The King's message, included in the letter of appointment, stressed the need to further bolster Palestinian-Jordanian unity, strengthen the armed forces and provide the citizens with facilities corresponding to their needs, especially in health, education and public services.

The King's letter to Mr. 'Obaidat stressed the need for the government to work hand in hand with parliament to serve the public and to cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in reaching an accepted formula for future joint action. The outgoing government bore its share of responsibility and was able to find solutions to many important problems, and progress has been achieved in many fields. Let us hope that the new government will continue to pursue the march towards achieving the country's goals and aspirations.

Pakistani MRD: Right apprehensive, Left for escalation

By Raja Asghar
Reuters

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's main opposition alliance is divided over whether to launch a second round of its campaign against military rule after the first round ended in stalemate.

Calls for a moderation have been made within the jailed leadership of the opposition movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) as the nine banned political parties in the alliance said they would soon begin a second phase of the campaign.

The parties hope to force President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to end martial law and hold elections under the suspended constitution, which provides for a Westminster-style parliamentary democracy.

But Gen. Zia has given no indication of willingness to make any

concessions after weathering the most serious challenge to his six and a half years of martial law.

He has re-emphasised enforcing an Islamic order which he says "has no scope for political parties in their present form."

The MRD rejected in August its plan for national elections by March 1985 and launched a civil disobedience campaign to press for immediate elections.

More than 60 people were officially reported killed in often violent MRD protests which rocked the southern province of Sind from mid-August to mid-October. But the campaign failed to pick up in Punjab, the most populous province, and the other two provinces of northwest frontier and Baluchistan.

Thousands of MRD supporters were jailed, most of them in Sind,

home province of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is the main force in the MRD.

Surprisingly, the first conciliatory gesture was made by jailed Sind PPP President Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi who had called in the early days of the campaign for a holy war against martial law.

In a statement smuggled out of jail last month, Mr. Jatoi called on the government and opposition to "forgive and forget" and begin "a new chapter of love among brothers."

Gen. Zia ignored the move and instead said the PPP, whose government he overthrew in a July 1977 coup, would not be allowed to rule again.

But Mr. Jatoi's move has now been followed by another jailed

politician from Sind, Abid Zuheri, information secretary of the banned National Democratic Party (NDP), a major partner in the MRD.

Mr. Zuheri said in a statement smuggled out of jail last week it was time for a dialogue with Gen. Zia and warned that a second round of protests, reportedly pressed by left-wing groups in the alliance, could lead to dangerous radicalism.

Mr. Jatoi is one of Sind's largest landowners and Mr. Zuheri an industrialist and landowner.

Many landowners in Sind, particularly those in the PPP, were active in the MRD campaign, and Gen. Zia set up a tribunal last month to probe evasion of land reforms introduced by Mr. Bhutto, whom he ordered executed in 1979 after a murder conspiracy

conviction. Talk of a second round of the campaign "has alarmed the present leadership" of both the PPP and NDP as the MRD stood divided into two different schools of thought, Islamabad's daily The Muslim reported.

An article in The Muslim said the MRD leadership has lost control of the protest campaign in the last days of the first phase and feared the second phase could slip out of its hands from the outset.

Political commentators say a left-wing Sindhi organisation, Sind Awami Tehrik (SAT), has played a major role in organising protests in Sind province without joining the MRD.

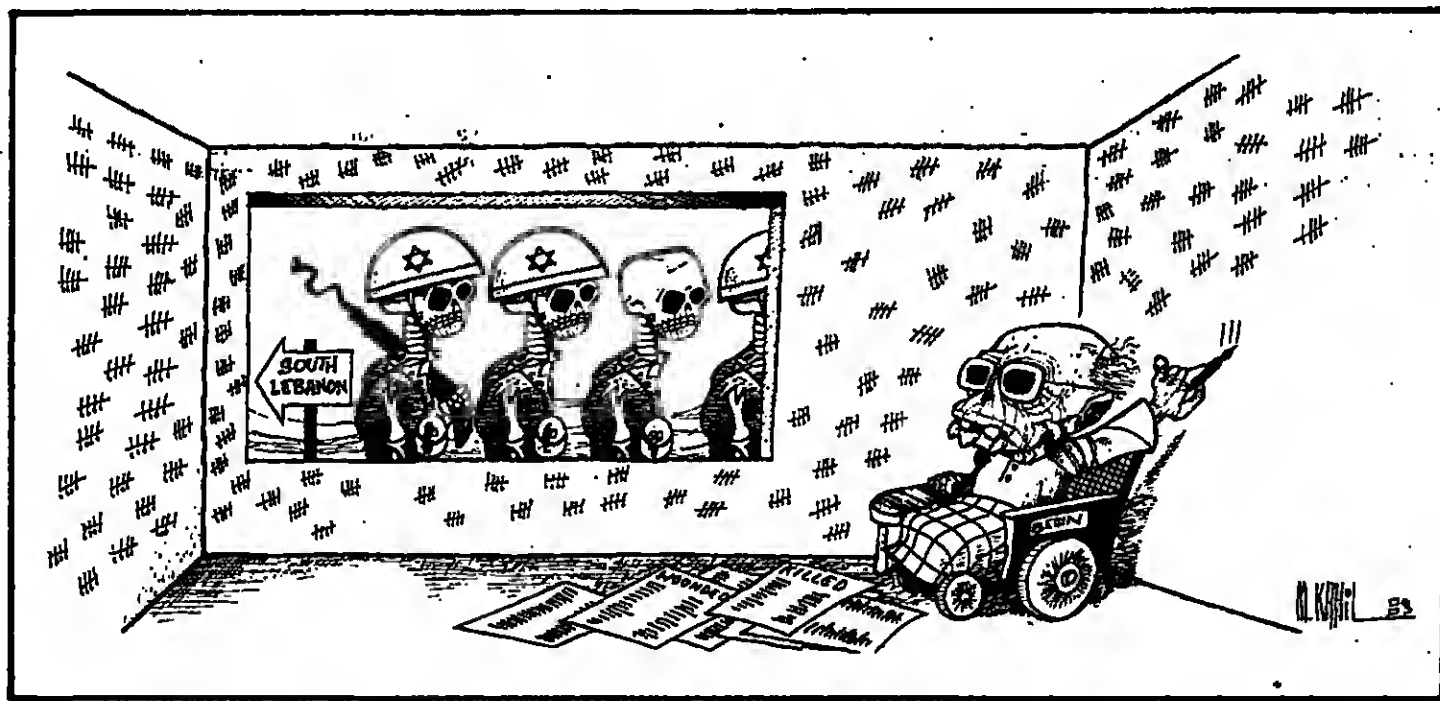
The Muslim report said PPP

moderates led by Mr. Jatoi were worried by SAT's growing popularity and the possibility of an alliance between it and PPP leftists.

With pressure from the MRD eased, Gen. Zia is virtually campaigning to mobilise his own supporters. Last month he addressed a large public meeting at Multan in Punjab and several Islamic conferences in Islamabad.

Government spokesmen have said the MRD movement has fizzled out and is not likely to pick up again.

But a columnist for the prestigious daily Dawn of Karachi warned that the present "uneasy calm should not be misinterpreted. It may turn out to be a lull before another storm."



American South said to favour Mondale

By David Nagy
Reuters

TAMPA, Florida - Despite black pride in Jesse Jackson and white conservative admiration for John Glenn, many voters in America's deep south say they will back Walter Mondale for the 1984 Democratic Party presidential nomination.

With the opposition party's arduous round of presidential primary elections just six weeks away and the south shaping up as a key battleground, Mr. Mondale, vice-president under Jimmy Carter, has been out shaking hands from Arkansas to Florida.

At the same time civil rights leader Jackson enjoyed the limelight of his Syrian mercy mission which won the release of a captured black American navy aircraft officer, and Ohio Senator Glenn, America's first astronaut in space, campaigned elsewhere. Comments gathered along Mr. Mondale's barnstorming route suggest he is strong even in "Dixie," where 53 per cent of U.S. blacks live and where white Democrats usually favour political extremists like Mr. Glenn over liberals like Mr. Mondale.

While no-one underestimates Mr. Jackson's potential for siphoning black votes away from Mr. Mondale, a poll of southern Democratic Party opinion taken in December showed Mr. Mondale at 43 per cent, Mr. Glenn at 29, Mr. Jackson at nine and the rest scattered.

Despite the more recent Jackson mission to Syria, many southern political experts say they doubt the balloon over that coup will add much long-range strength to his candidacy.

Even in the south, many blacks express pride in Mr. Jackson but say pride has its limits when it

comes to picking a president.

Mr. Mondale's extra asset in Georgia is an endorsement of support from Mr. Carter, who lost to President Reagan in 1980.

In Alabama, considered Mr. Glenn's strongest deep south state and a stronghold for Mr. Jackson as well, a neutral state party leader said he believes Mr. Mondale may now have the edge.

"His biggest drawback is Jackson taking some of the black vote away from him, no question about it," he said.

"Glenn's biggest drawback is the same as everywhere: no political organisation. It's a horror show. He's popular here but you've got to have some organisation to reach politically active people in Alabama, the ones who vote in the primary."

Similar sentiments were expressed by many people who know nothing of party politics but will cast the vote.

Leaning against the door of a cotton mill in the tiny village of Greenbrier, Alabama, John Henry Jones, 65, a black and a retired farmer, was asked his views soon after Mr. Jackson won the release of U.S. navy Lt. Robert Goodman in Damascus.

"Jesse ain't ready, not for president," Mr. Jones said.

"Glenn? You don't hear too much about him around here. Mondale's my man. He's been around the White House some and he'd likely do a pretty good job."

The dozen southern states from Virginia on the Atlantic coast to Mississippi and Arkansas in the heartland, will play an unusually decisive role in this year's nomination battle because of population shifts and the primary election schedule.

On the Republican side, Mr.

Reagan is expected to run again and face no serious opposition for the nomination. His announcement is scheduled for Jan. 20.

But Mr. Mondale has seven Democratic rivals, with Mr. Glenn his only real opposition, according to current public opinion polls.

On Feb. 20 and 28 respectively, Iowa and New Hampshire lead off the voting for delegates to the party's summer presidential nominating convention. But Mr. Glenn sides say Mr. Mondale is probably too strong to be beaten in either of these places.

Then, almost immediately, comes the south in the week starting on March 11, seven southern states, including all those Mr. Mondale has just toured, will select 410 pledged convention delegates, or more than one-fifth of the 1,966 majority needed to win the nomination.

In all, the south will control about 26 per cent of the Democratic convention delegates, the largest bloc from any one geographic region.

Mr. Glenn's strategists concede

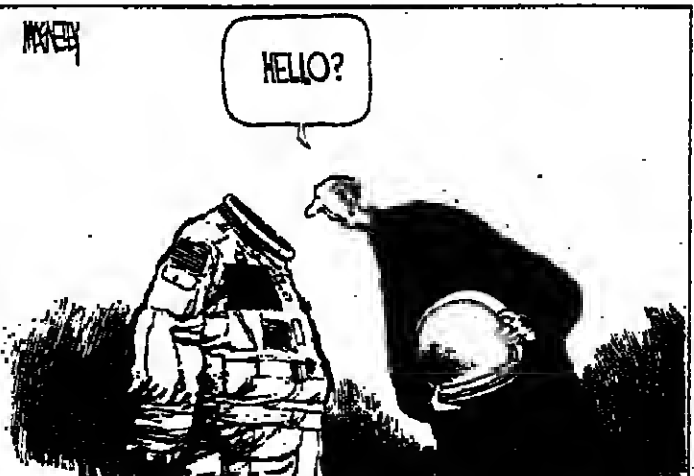
he must show well in the south or watch Mr. Mondale's handwagon roll beyond reach, and they predict that is just what Mr. Glenn will do.

Jim Hall, his chief southern strategist, said: "We have a candidate for the south and the message for the south," meaning a blend of conservatism on defence and government-spending issues with compassion for the poor and minorities.

"I'd hope we could take a majority of delegates in the south," Mr. Hall said. "There are a lot of unknown factors and number one is Jesse Jackson. He sort of turns the situation on end in the south."

While Mr. Mondale's liberal image, Mr. Jackson's flair and Mr. Glenn's appeal may yet change the picture, there is no doubt Mr. Mondale is now running circles around his rivals in the south.

"Everything he tries to do he appears to succeed at," says Charlie Schrader, a Georgia political activist. "That's a sign of making good judgements and picking your fights well. He has 'I have it all together' written all over him."



LETTERS

Gone a little bit too far

To the Editor:

It is not surprising that Mr. Shlomo Staniel has taken up an issue with Mr. 'Inad Khairallah over his article on diplomatic parties (Jordan Times, Jan. 11, 1984), as she, although not a diplomat herself, is closely linked with the diplomatic community (as she herself says).

Mr. Khairallah himself has pointed out that "only a few can ever enjoy a diplomatic party," that is if you are not a diplomat yourself. Well, in this case Mr. Staniel's criticism was somewhat expected, especially that she is one of those who enjoy such gatherings. In any case, to label Mr. Khairallah's article as "self-centred" would be pushing the point a little bit too far. I feel, his earlier articles on various other facets of life in Amman, such as taxi rides, offices and telephones, post office services etc. were nothing but an actual reflection of the frustration one feels when confronted with similar situations.

As to the article in question, the one on diplomatic parties (Jordan Times, Jan. 11, 1984), I would concede that portions of it are a bit exaggerated, but then it made good reading. Also, he has very carefully avoided any criticism direct or indirect of any diplomat, which he could easily have done. However, criticism is inherent in the article is of a very light nature, and diplomats, since they are "diplomats" in the right sense of the word, should not take offence.

Another point I would like to mention here is that Mr. Staniel was totally wrong to have compared Mr. Khairallah with Mr. 'Ismat 'Ismat. The two are in two different classes, in style of writing, themes, presentation and humour. The only thing in common between the two, I would say, is the fact that both write for the Jordan Times.

Again, since the Jordan Times is otherwise a "very heavy" newspaper with its political slant, it is not welcome that at least one page carries some light-hearted, humorous material!

Keep writing Mr. Khairallah, and I hope you could write more often.

Ara Gabi,
Amman

Well-intended humour

To the Editor:

I have been an ardent reader of the Jordan Times for the past several years and been observing with interest the various stages of the newspaper's growth in terms of quality and presentation of news.

One of the recent good things that happened to the Jordan Times is doubtlessly the emergence of regular columns, which I am sure are adored by the majority of the readers. Mr. 'Inad Khairallah's light-hearted articles, with their underlying tone of cynicism, humour and modesty, surely figure prominently among your columns, and in my opinion, such healthy criticism of the things and circumstances around us in our daily life should be very heartily welcomed.

Some of his recitations of his own experiences seem so familiar to us, for the reason being that they are down-to-earth and straight pointers to the things that could happen to any person. The only difference is that different people accept things in different ways, interpreting them in the light of their own experiences and perspectives. Mr. Khairallah's articles, I am sure a majority of Jordan Times readers would agree with me, do represent popular opinion.

Besides, such articles are a welcome change to news covering the world's numerous problems: disasters, violence, arms race, political games and scandals and the like — apart from being confronted with the struggle to survive.

Let me extend my congratulations to the Jordan Times, and express hope the newspaper would continue its progress and growth.

Mrs. Monica Sarkis,
Amman

If ET calls from home, ham operators are ready

By Donald J. Frederick

WASHINGTON — It may take a real ham to get in touch with an E.T.

Ham radio operators are being encouraged to join the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

SETI operates on the premise that evidence of intelligence elsewhere in the universe probably will come from radio signals produced by advanced civilizations.

"We hope to encourage and coordinate a network of small radio telescopes operated by hams that would probe the sky for intelligent signals from space," says Stan Kent, president of the Delta Vee Corporation, based in San Jose, California, the nonprofit organization promotes space exploration and research.

Do-it-yourself SETI

"Most hams already have the technical know-how to put together a SETI system," points out Mr. Kent. "The components are all available or can easily be built and linked together."

NASA scientists at Ames Research Center, near San Jose, helped launch the Delta Vee programme by showing how to build

the necessary equipment and providing computer programmes that will sort out valid incoming signals from false alarms.

Kent hopes the hams will concentrate their efforts on microwave frequencies, the types that now carry television and radar transmissions.

"If an intelligent civilization 15 light years away picked up the signal from a stray TV broadcast, it just might beam back on the same frequency," he reasons.

John H. Wolfe, programme scientist for SETI at Ames, and a former ham operator, is enthusiastic about the programme. "It's an opportunity for the public to get actively involved in space research. Ultimately, I'd like to see the amateur SETI thing mushroom into an international network encompassing hams all around the world."

NASA has already embarked on its own far-reaching SETI programme. Crucial to the initial stage is a multi-channel spectrum analyser, a device that can scan 75,000 radio frequencies simultaneously for meaningful signals.

Bound for Puerto Rico

This prototype will be hooked onto NASA's radio telescope at

Goldstone, California, for testing this fall and will be tried next spring on the world's largest radio telescope, the 1,000-foot-wide dish at Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

Testing and refining this prototype is expected to take five years so that a much larger and more sophisticated version can be developed, one that will scan eight to 10 million frequencies at the same time.

This extraordinary interstellar telephone attachment then will be used to listen for signals and eavesdrop on transmissions that may be going on elsewhere in the universe.

"Initially we'll zero in on quiet, well-behaved, middle-aged stars similar to our sun," says Jill Tarter, an astronomer at the NASA Ames Center.

"Life elsewhere may have evolved around such stars just as it did here. Our first target list contains about 800 such stars that are relatively close to us."

The NASA search won't, of course, be limited to such stars. Large swaths of the sky will be included. Of average size, Earth's galaxy, the Milky Way, contains hundreds of billions of stars, and billions of other galaxies of varying sizes fill the universe.

Harvard University physicist

Paul Horowitz approves of a broad approach. "We may have an extremely bright civilization in another galaxy or perhaps in a rather obscure place in our own. It would be a shame to miss them because we only looked at nearby sources."

Four years in orchard

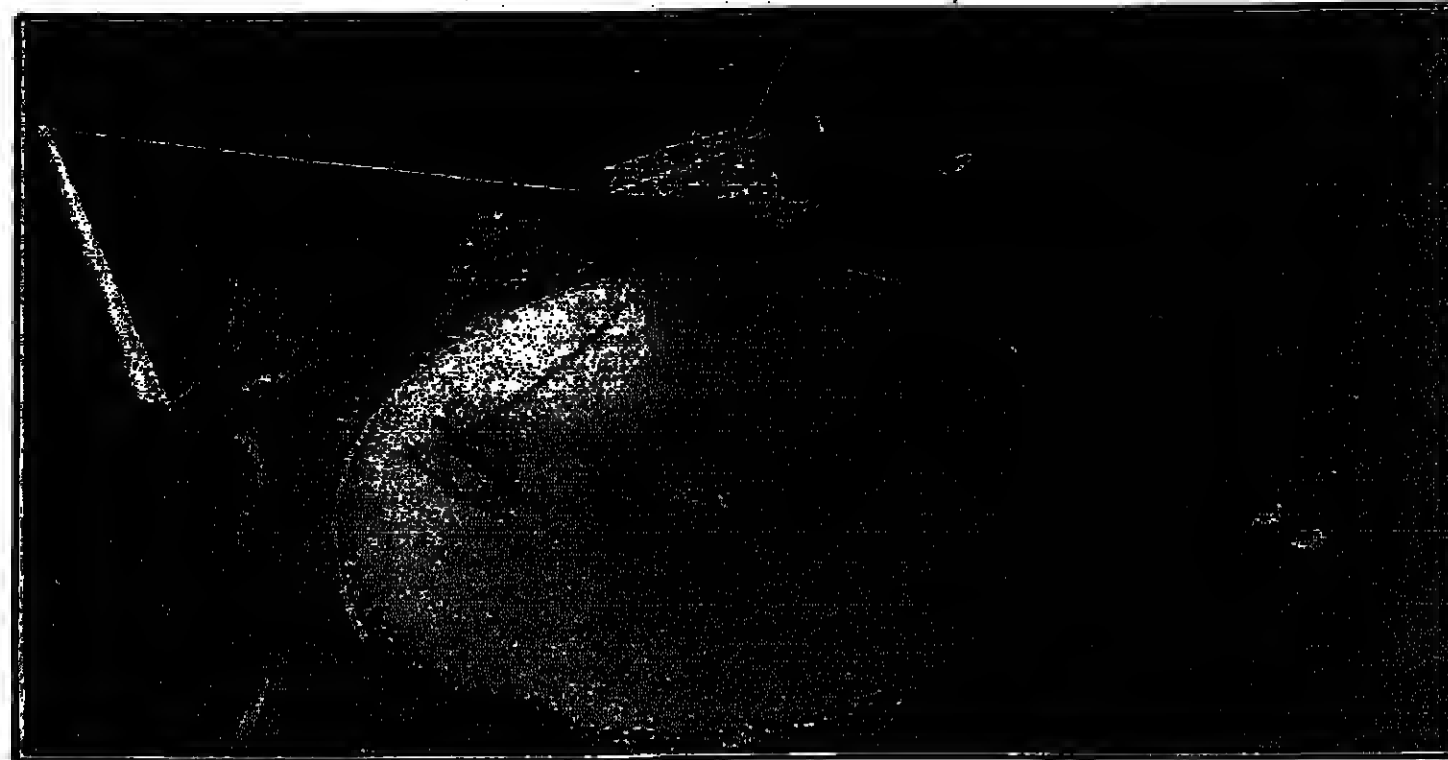
Supported by the Planetary Society, Horowitz recently began his own SETI endeavor with a radio receiver and an 85-foot antenna that for the next four years will scan 131,072 channels simultaneously. Set in an apple orchard not far from Boston, Horowitz's receiver won't be able to listen in on other galaxies or very distant stars in our own.

Why would an E.T. want to get in touch with a ham, or an ordinary earthling for that matter?

"I'm not sure," says Horowitz with a shrug. "It's hard to second guess the psychology of these guys when we don't even know whether they're green and slimy and how many heads they have."

"Communication may be fundamental urge in the universe. Perhaps they're interested in the art of Picasso, the music of Bach. There must be some things on Earth that might amuse them."

—National Geographic news feature



The world's largest radiotelescope at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico will soon eavesdrop on the stars in the first large-scale Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Scientists predict 'nuclear winter' after bomb

By Stephen Powell

LONDON (R) — Scientists from East and West are warning that a "nuclear winter" could descend on earth and destroy mankind even if only one superpower fires its weapons.

They say a big nuclear strike would wreak such havoc on weather and the environment that a nation launching such an attack would effectively be committing suicide.

Even if no other country were to counter-attack, the fate of humanity could be sealed. The warheads would trigger a nuclear winter of freezing cold and darkness in which no crops or civilisation could survive.

Some 100 eminent physicists, atmospheric scientists and biologists have already checked the "nuclear winter" theory and more international research is under way, but its implications are already cascading into politics.

"I think it completely knocks out the theory that one side could prevail in a nuclear war," says veteran British politician Denis Healey, the opposition Labour Party's defence expert.

The United States and the Soviet Union accuse each other of building up their nuclear arsenals to try to do just this.

Now U.S. and Soviet scientists are stepping up their warnings that nuclear war is not winnable.

One of the American scientists involved in the new studies, astro-physicist Carl Sagan, says a first strike would effectively be "an elaborate way of committing suicide."

The nuclear winter scenario stems from new research into the effects of the sooty smoke and dust which would billow from nuclear-triggered firestorms — an

aspect overlooked until Dutch Professor Paul Crutzen turned his attention to it in 1982.

Prof. Crutzen, director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, West Germany, concluded that nuclear conflict would create enormous clouds of black smoke which would blot out the sun and absorb its life-giving rays.

This view, published in the Swedish Science Journal Ambio in June 1982, sent U.S. and Soviet scientists scurrying to their computers with new meteorological and environmental questions.

U.S. researchers concluded that a conflict using only 5,000 of the 12,000 megatons in the world's nuclear arsenal would cut sunlight to a few per cent of normal in a week as 225 million tons of smoke billowed into the air.

Temperatures would plunge

Land temperatures would plunge to between minus 15 and minus 25 centigrade except on coastlines, they said in findings published in October.

"Survivors would face extreme cold, water shortages, lack of food and fuel, heavy burdens of radiation and pollutants, diseases, and severe psychological stress — all in twilight or darkness," they said.

Soviet researchers agree on the nuclear winter phenomenon. Four of the Soviet Union's most distinguished researchers gave their views at a forum on the after-effects of nuclear war in Washington early last month.

A study based on the U.S. research and written by 20 leading scientists from several countries appeared in the American Journal Science in late December.

"It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone of a thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere," it said.

"Coupled with the direct casualties of perhaps two billion people, the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no survivors in the northern hemisphere."

Tropical forests might die

The study says nuclear war would also have a profound effect on the southern hemisphere, as food imports from the north would stop and tropical forests might die. The Earth's major reservoir of organic diversity, these forests could largely disappear as they are sensitive to even short periods of cold and darkness.

Research also suggests that even a small nuclear attack using less than one per cent of the world's arsenal could trigger a nuclear winter.

U.S. scientists say 100 megatons, if exploded over cities, could produce a two-month interval of sub-zero land temperatures with a minimum near minus 23 centigrade.

If they are correct, British nuclear weapons alone could turn summer into winter.

The British Labour Party, which opposes the deployment of NATO's new cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Europe, has used the theory to bolster its anti-nuclear stance.

Mr. Healey told Reuters: "I think more and more countries will be forced to the conclusion that what NATO needs is a conventional deterrent against conventional attack."

Political analyst David Watt, director of the Royal Institute of

International Affairs, says the significance of the theory can hardly be over-emphasised, if it is correct.

"It would overturn the whole of the conventional view about deterrence and the nature of nuclear war," he wrote.

Several scientists interviewed by Reuters believe the theory will eventually have an important political impact.

Effects unavoidable

"This will happen as it becomes evident there is no way of avoiding the effects of nuclear attack simply by going underground and staying there for a week or two," Frank Von Hippel, chairman of the Federation of American Scientists, said.

Further research into the nuclear winter theory is under way, and the International Council of Scientific Unions will probe the idea as part of a two-year study into the effects of nuclear war.

British Scientist Sir Frederick Warner, who heads the study, is cautious at this stage about the nuclear winter scenario: "I think there is a prima facie case for it. The predictions vary widely and what we will do is look at it more rigorously."

Current predictions cover a wide range of estimated temperature drops, from about four to 40 degrees centigrade.

One reason scientists are taking a fresh look at the world after nuclear war is a theory about the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, Sagan and others say.

The idea has emerged that a meteorite collided with the Earth and sent up a huge dust-cloud which blotted out the sun for several years.

Satellites may come to the help of civilians

By Peter Marsh

The American government will decide over the next few months whether to charge ordinary people for tuning into military satellites that will provide information about position with an accuracy of a few metres.

The Department of Defence's \$8 billion Global Positioning System is intended primarily for the military. With signals from satellites circling the Earth at an altitude of 20,100 kilometres, soldiers on battlefields will compute exactly where they are.

The information will also be useful to military commanders who want to plot the trajectories of nuclear missiles.

But the Pentagon has come under increasing pressure to make the navigation information from its satellites freely available to civilians, for example, airline pilots or shipping organisations.

Under present plans, civilians will be permitted to tune into signals from the spacecraft. But they will gain only relatively inaccurate information about their position.

For an annual "access fee" of \$370, civilians will obtain access to what is known as an "S code."

This makes sense of the stream of digital data that the nav-

igational satellites beam from space. When processed by a small computer built into receiving equipment, the signals give the person's position to within 100 metres.

The spacecraft will also send data in another format, the "P code." This gives data about position to within 15 metres. But "P codes" will be available only to military staff.

According to a senior official in the Pentagon, it is likely that the Department of Defence will drop the plan to charge people for tuning into the satellites. But the question about whether to make available the more sensitive information is still under review.

The issue of civilian access to the Global Positioning System is under review by two committees of Congress. The Federal Aviation Administration is also discussing with the Pentagon how airlines could benefit from the satellite network.

Signals from the space vehicles could give pilots more accurate and reliable navigation than is possible with current techniques such as land-based radio beacons or inertial navigation systems centred on gyroscopes.

Plans for the American system are, by contrast, further ahead.

This summer the Department of Defence asked Rockwell to produce 28 satellites at a cost of \$2 billion. Eighteen of the satellites will be in operation, in three orbits of six. The other 10 will be spare.

The vehicles will enter orbit over the next five years on the U.S.'s fleet of space shuttles. The spacecraft will be specifically adapted so they can withstand the effects of nuclear radiation. They will also have anti-jamming devices to foil any attempts by the Soviet Union to impede their operation.

The Pentagon is spending another \$6 billion on control station and on 20,000 receiving sets for the armed forces and coastguard officers. The sets will pick up signals from several spacecraft simultaneously. This should always be possible because of the number of vehicles that will be in orbit.

With data about the position and velocities of the satellites, a computer in each receiving set will calculate its whereabouts in three dimensions to within a few metres.

The Global Positioning System will follow another set of spacecraft for navigation that the Department of Defence put into orbit in the 1960s. In the Transit system, satellites provide information about position to within 160 metres. Anyone is allowed to

tune into the hardware. Some 50,000 people, many of them owners of small boats, have Transit receiving sets.

But the network has limited applications because only six Transit vehicles are in orbit. So they do not appear above the horizon often enough to appeal to people who want to receive a "fix" from space 24 hours a day.

Mr. Thomas Stansell, director of advanced programmes of the Californian company Magnavox, is among the most enthusiastic of those who point out the civilian applications of satellite navigation. According to Stansell, by the late 1990s, 10 million people around the world could use the Global Positioning System.

Such people could include hikers who need the information to negotiate mountain passes and mining companies which, with bearings from the sky, would locate minerals deposits.

Everyone who has paid an annual fee would receive a special chip that plugs into the receiving set and decodes the signals transmitted from the heavens. Alternatively, the messages from the space vehicles could be "addressed" so that they can be received only by specified receivers.

Financial Times news feature

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Kriek beats Arias in Masters opener

NEW YORK (R) — South African-born Johan Kriek, the last player to qualify, beat 19-year-old American Jimmy Arias 7-6, 6-4 Tuesday in the opening match of the 12-man Grand Prix Masters Tennis Championships.

The victory by the 25-year-old Kriek, now a U.S. citizen, gave him a berth in the quarter-finals against John McEnroe on Thursday night.

Kriek, who edged out Guillermo Vilas of Argentina for the 12th berth in the single-elimination tournament, had trouble with his service and fell behind, 11-2, in the opening set. But he then ran off five straight games to lead, 5-2, before Arias drew to 5-5 after saving two setpoints in the 11th game.

Arias, playing in his first Masters, saved two more setpoints at 6-3 in the ensuing tiebreaker before Kriek closed out the set with an overhead off a short Arias forehand lob.

Kriek, winner of three tournaments last year, pulled ahead, 4-2, in the second set on a service break in the opening game. But Arias again drew level at 4-4 when he broke service in the eighth game.

But then Kriek broke service again, at 15, on an Arias double-fault and three crisp volley winners and served out at love for the match.

Arias, who rose from 22 to six in the world rankings last year, was erratic with his potent forehand, one of the strongest in tennis. He went to the net only a few times — unlike Kriek who attacked it constantly in the second set.

Both players complained about the balls being used for the tournament, maintaining that they were extremely heavy.

"The balls were ridiculously heavy," Arias said. Kriek, ranked 15th internationally, said his second set pressure on Arias gave him the victory.

"I began to go the net more, and he had to hit an incredible winner if he was going to pass me," Kriek said.

"Even though I won three tournaments, I had a real bad year in

1983," Kriek said, "and didn't start to play well until the fall when I won the South African open and reached the quarters in the Australian Open. I didn't think I had a chance of getting into the Masters, but I sneaked in."

"I think a changed attitude helped. I used to put too much pressure on myself, but then I realized that you have to set realistic goals," he said.

In another match, Spain's Jose Higueras beat Jose-Luis Clerc of Argentina 6-2, 6-3.

Higueras, one of the world's top clay-court players, showed he was capable of adapting to a medium-fast indoor surface, wearing down his rival with steady ground strokes and pinpoint passing shot in a battle of baselines.

The 29-year-old Spaniard, who lost all four of his matches in his two previous Masters appearances, in 1980 and last year, opened up 3-1 leads in both sets. Clerc drew to 3-3 in the second set, but then Higueras ran off the

Navratilova revenges defeat by player she lost to last year

OAKLAND, California (R) — The world's number one woman tennis player, Martina Navratilova of the U.S., beat compatriot Kathy Horvath 6-2, 6-0 Tuesday night in the first round of the Oakland \$150,000 tennis tournament.

Horvath was the last player to defeat Navratilova when she upset the Czechoslovak-born American last May in the fourth round of the French Open.

But Wednesday Navratilova relished the fast Oakland Coliseum surface which fully suited her aggressive serve and volley game and she showed no sign of the sore shoulder which caused her to drop out of a tournament in Washington last week. Seventh-seeded American Zina Garrison and Hana Mandlikova, the eighth seed from Czechoslovakia, also advanced to the second round. Garrison defeated Christiane Jolissaint, of Switzerland 6-1, 6-1 and Mandlikova beat Alicia Moulton of the U.S., 6-2, 6-4.

last three games after saving three breakpoints from love-40 in the seventh.

"I still don't feel comfortable on this surface [supreme court], even though the court is good for me since it is not very fast," said Higueras, who now lives in Palm Springs, California.

"I practice a lot on cement now, and it makes it easier for me when I play indoors," said Higueras, who did not play in any indoor tournaments last year after the Masters.

Mats Wilander of Sweden is top-seeded in the event, followed by Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, McEnroe and Jimmy Connors.

In the concluding first-round matches, Yannick Noah of France plays Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia and Andres Gomez of Ecuador meets Eliot Teltscher of the United States.

The quarter-finals will be held on Thursday and Friday, followed by the semi-finals on Saturday afternoon. The winner of Sunday's final will receive \$100,000 and the runnerup \$60,000.

The Masters climaxes the previous year's Grand Prix circuit, with the 12 point-leaders qualifying for the event which until last year was contested on a round-robin basis.

Revolutionary Soviet bobsleigh astounds winter sportsmen

By Martin Nesirky
Reuter

MOSCOW — A revolutionary two-man bobsleigh, slimmer, shorter and faster than any other, has astounded winter sportsmen and could win the Soviet Union a medal at the Sarajevo Olympics next month.

Soviet bob riders began competing in major events only five years ago but the new sleigh has hurled them to prominence this season, placing them high in competitions where previously they were rank outsiders.

Surprised western competitors have scurried to their workshops in the probably vain hope of modifying their bobs in time for the Olympics which could see the first Soviet two-man bob gold.

Soon after the sleek red bob's first competitive run at Koenigssee in West Germany last November, team coach Roland Upatniaks told reporters Soviet technicians had been working on the design since 1980.

Western sportsmen and coaches who have examined the new bobs — there are at least four of the torpedo-shaped sleighs, each with aerofin fins — believe they are faster because of a revolutionary ball and socket joint in the suspension and steering unit.

Already the new bob has broken course records, touching speeds of up to 124 kph (77 mph). It appears designed to keep all four runners on the ice longer than a conventional bob, allowing it to twist and turn down the chute faster, riding to the very lip without overturning.

United States coach Stefan Gaisreiter, a West German former world record holder, called the bob "the most revolutionary I have ever seen... aerodynamically, there is nothing to beat it in the world."

Other coaches agree, saying the tiny red hull, into which the pilot and brakeman must squeeze themselves until they can barely move, is so honed it probably cuts two seconds off a 1,300-metre (1800-foot) course.

Races are often decided by hundredths of seconds.

As the new bob is about 15 cm (six inches) shorter than the tubular conventional bob, the two-man Soviet team can gain an extra split-second acceleration time in the explosive run-up to the chute.

Inside the new model, the pilot is tucked right forward under the cowling clutching his steering cord. The brakeman sits glued behind him in the cockpit, one brake between his legs instead of the usual two either side of him.

Some western coaches and international bobsleigh officials have cried foul at the new Soviet design, maintaining it is unsafe because the riders are so crushed in they would not be able to get out in the event of a crash.

Swiss Bobsleigh Federation President J. Erwin Brazzel has submitted a critical report to the international federation technical committee.

But he acknowledges that the Soviet bob will not be banned from Sarajevo which has a refrigerated course considered safer than naturally frozen tracks, like St. Moritz.

But Mikhail Basov, head of the Soviet Sports Committee Luge and Bobsleigh Department, which selects teams, trainers and equipment, told Reuters the international federation had approved the Soviet design. He said it conformed to all competition safety rules.

He said the bob had been des-

igned and built in Latvia, a Soviet Baltic Republic with low hills, home to the national coach and several crew members.

The team which built the bob over two years with apparently unlimited funds were able to use a small test track in Latvia, Basov added.

The main Soviet bob chute is in Bratsk, a central Siberian city.

Reacting to western reports that the Swiss team had acquired the innovative Soviet design, Basov said: "It's not forbidden to copy — let them do it."

Traier Upatniaks told reporters in West Germany last month: "There is no secret. The secret is work."

But the Soviet team of riders and technicians have peaked at just the right time, months before the Olympics, allowing most competitors to watch the red bullet in horror but not to rebuild their bobs.

Basov rates Soviet chances modestly, but sees the new two-man bob finishing "among the first 10 at least" at Sarajevo.

Although western winter sportsmen do not rate Soviet bob riders highly, they think the new sleigh is good enough to compensate for their inexperience and should sweep them to Olympic medals, possibly gold.

Already the Soviet bob was woo the prestige Velits Cup, surpassing the usually dominant East German, Austrian, Swiss and West German crews by taking the first three places.

Smaller squads for European soccer finals

PARIS (R) — The eight European Soccer Championship finalists will have squads of 20 players at next June's tournament instead of the customary 22, the European Football Union (UEFA) decided Wednesday.

The UEFA Executive Committee, meeting here after Tuesday's final draw, had been urged two days ago to make the amendment for the finals in France by federation presidents and man-

agers from eight nations involved.

They also agreed to allow managers to have all 20 players available for any match — 11 in the starting line-up and nine on the substitutes' bench of whom two can be used as replacements during the game.

The move avoids the problem of players condemned in the past to spending most of their time watching their team-mates from the stands and the disenchantment this could cause.

West German team chief Jupp Derwall broke with tradition at the 1982 World Cup finals and went to Spain with only 20 of the 22 players he named in his squad.

The executive committee also agreed to introduce two 15-minute periods of extra-time in the event of deadlocked semifinals before a penalty shoot-out.

The original plan was for the shoot-out to follow immediately after the 90 minutes of normal time, though extra-time has been customary in past World Cups and European Championships.

Watford defeats Luton in English F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — Maurice Johnston headed an extra time goal — his 10th in 11 games — to give Watford a 4-3 win over Luton in a pulsating English Football Association (F.A.) Cup third round replay Tuesday night.

Johnston, 20-year-old striker recently bought for £210,000 (£280,000) from Scotland's Partick Thistle, grabbed the first goal after the rivals were 3-3 at the end of 90 minutes.

The little Scot shared the honours with Watford's England under-21 international Nigel Callaghan, who scored the first goal and took a hand in all the others.

Callaghan put Watford ahead in the fourth minute and George Relly increased the lead after 30 minutes before Mal Donaghy pulled one back seconds before haltime.

John Barnes fired Watford's third soon after the break, but Paul Walsh scored twice in five minutes to force extra time.

Johnston's 10th minute header from a Callaghan corner clinched a fourth round tie at Charlton for Watford, who drew 2-2 with Luton last Saturday.

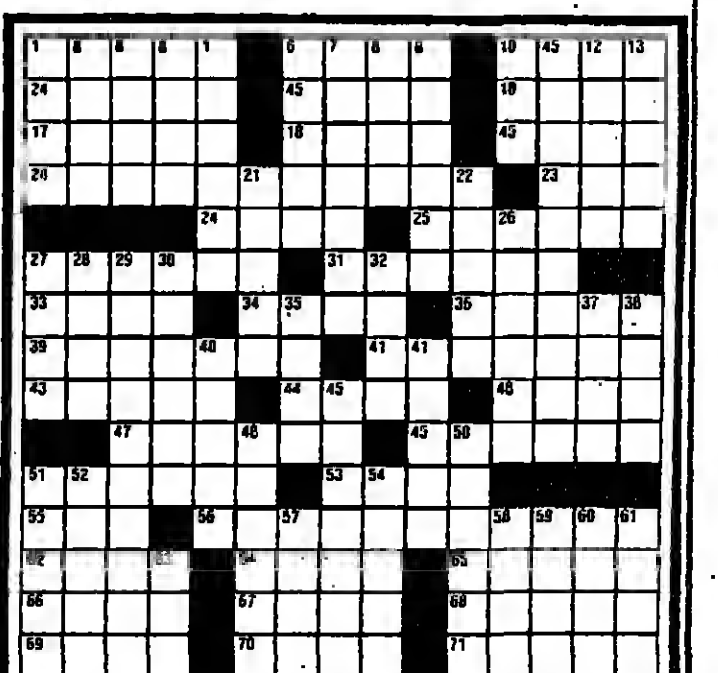
In Tuesday night's other all-first division third round replay, Wolverhampton and Coventry fought out another 1-1 deadlock.

Trevor Peake grabbed the equaliser six minutes from the finish after Mel Eves put Wolverhampton ahead in the 69th minute.

First division Birmingham City pulled off a 2-0 third round replay victory over Division Three promotion contenders Sheffield United, and now face Sunderland away.

THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 31 Make certain | 55 Royal address | 13 Stairway |
| 1 Light wood | 33 Relative of oatrich | 56 Honolulu landmark | 21 Twisted thread |
| 6 Raise | 34 Mother of Caesar | 62 Sales caveat | 22 Burst forth |
| 10 Royal insignia | 36 Print medium | 64 Become red | 26 Pilgrimage |
| 14 — Cooper | 39 Hoards | 65 Southland | 27 English trolley |
| 15 Gambling center | 41 Actress Wood | 66 Land parcels | 28 "Oh, my" Queen of cliff-hangers |
| 16 Musical piece | 43 Osservé | 67 Mudville team | 30 More comfortable |
| 17 Kind of eclipse | 44 Rip-off | 68 Cut out | 32 Zola novel |
| 18 Declare | 46 Leningrad's river | 69 Have the lead | 35 Being: Lat |
| 19 Proficient | 47 Front runner | 70 Hindu deity | 37 Close up |
| 20 Idealized | 49 Stormy | 71 Wall-known | 40 Not flighty |
| 23 Sharp cry | 51 Glossy seashell | OWON | 42 With full force |
| 24 Bonds | 53 Director Kazan | 1 Large bundle | 45 Stravinsky home |
| 25 Ouck metres | | 2 Astringent | 48 Condensate |
| 27 Tropical headgear | | 3 Short note | 50 Make blue |
| | | 4 Wound | 51 — up |
| | | 5 Charge with | 52 Comedian |
| | | 6 School division | 54 Send down |
| | | 7 Amended | 57 Landed |
| | | 8 Singletons | 58 Hawaiian seaport |
| | | 9 "The War of the —" | 59 Theater sign |
| | | 10 Harem film | 60 Assistant |
| | | 11 Onetime movie dancing star | 61 Convey legally |
| | | 12 Contradict | 63 Compass heading |



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Tel: 666265 - 666320

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To care for two school children in the intermediary stage and to live with them and serve as housekeeper.

Education background: University degree or equivalent. Experience: Preference to be given to candidates with experience in teaching, age: 45 years or above.

Applications, educational background, and testimonials, along with names of three references and their addresses should be sent by post to P.O. Box 927124 Amman.

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L. American conference hits snags on debt plan

QUITO (R) — Major differences have emerged among delegates at a 24-nation Latin American conference which is attempting to ease the region's crushing \$311 billion international debt, according to a conference spokesman.

But spokesman Mr. Eduardo Santos Tuesday night also declined to identify the problems at the end of 2 days of meetings. The conference ends Friday.

Ecuadorian delegates, however, told Reuters Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, which hold more than 2/3 of the debt, were among nations resisting adoption of detailed guidelines on debt renegotiation with Western banks and governments.

Mr. Santos told reporters he believed participants would narrow their differences to agree on essential points by the end of the conference, but said disagreements on some points "in the end would not be able to be overcome."

Delegates said Tuesday that among the proposals circulated to turn the debt into 20-year bonds, clamping a lid on debt repayments and pressing international institutions like the World Bank to step up loans to the region.

The immediate aim of Wednesday's session was to complete the draft of a key "political declaration" for the consideration of a number of Latin American government leaders and foreign ministers.

The government leaders are expected to issue a strong final statement designed to build political pressure on the West to seek workable solutions to the region's debt crisis.

Most major Latin American nations, staggering under the weight of their debts, have been forced to arrive at special arrangements with creditors to delay principal repayments for as much as 4 years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Riyadh aids Mauritania, Pakistan

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has granted Mauritania \$5 million in food aid to help overcome drought in the "East African country," the official Saudi Press Agency reported Wednesday. The kingdom Tuesday night also granted Pakistan 100 million Saudi riyals (\$2.8 million) to help cover part of the damage caused by an earthquake in Pakistan recently, the agency said.

Nepal devalues its rupee

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal Rastra Bank, the country's state bank, said Wednesday it had devalued the rupee by 3.5 per cent against the dollar effectively immediately. The dollar would now be worth 15.75 rupees instead of 15.2. The Nepalese currency was also devalued by 1.6 to 3.6 per cent against other major currencies. The rate for sterling is 21.82 rupees, against 21.04 previously.

Union files suit against U.S. Steel

CHICAGO (R) — The United Steelworkers Union Tuesday filed a \$50 million libel suit against the U.S. Steel Corporation in a dispute over the company's decision not to build a new plant in Chicago. The steelworkers alleged the company had lied in a newspaper advertisement which blamed the union for the demise of the \$220 million plant.

IDB to lend N. Yemen \$8.5m

JEDDAH (R) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will lend about \$8.5 million to North Yemen under an agreement signed here Wednesday, the IDB announced. The loan will be used to finance construction of power plants. Loans extended to Yemen since the current Muslim year began 3 months ago now totalled \$32 million.

IDA donors meet today

WASHINGTON (R) — Negotiators from the 33 donor governments of the International Development Association (IDA) begin a 2-day meeting here Thursday for a final session on the level of funding for the association's seventh replenishment. At their last meeting in Paris in December, representatives of donor governments supported a \$12 billion replenishment for 3 years starting July 1, 1984. The U.S. stood alone in advocating a lower level of funding. IDA is the World Bank's soft-loan affiliate.

G. M. unveils major reorganization

DETROIT (R) — General Motors (G.M.), the world's biggest carmaker, said Tuesday it had reshaped its North American operations into 2 separate groups for large and small cars. G.M., which sold 4 million cars in the United States in 1983 and had sales exceeding \$60 billion the previous year, said it reorganized into a small car group embracing Chevrolet, Pontiac and G.M. of Canada and a middle-to-large car group taking in Cadillac, Oldsmobile and Buick.

Iraq plans wider role for private sector

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has approved a government budget for 1984 giving the private sector an increased role in the country's economic development. Trade Minister Hassan Ali said in an interview published Tuesday. Mr. Ali was quoted by the official daily newspaper Al Fawaz as saying the budget has increased allocations for the private industrial and trade sectors by 171 per cent over the previous year. He said Iraq last month had signed 300 contracts with private Arab and Iraqi firms to invest in agricultural development for the first time in 25 years.

Lagos decides to delay talks with IMF

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's new military government has decided to delay talks due to start in Washington on Monday with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a loan of over \$2 billion, banking sources said Wednesday. The government, decided to delay the talks until it announced its cabinet and the new finance minister had time to settle into his job, the sources reported. No new date was set for the talks.

Dollar resumes upward climb

FRANKFURT (R) — The dollar Wednesday recovered from Tuesday's brief setback on the foreign exchanges and resumed its upward climb in the Far East and early European trading.

In hectic early business in Frankfurt, the dollar moved within 15 minutes to 2.8480 marks from first quotes of 2.84, but later dipped to around 2.82 in erratic trading.

The French franc also came under early pressure in Paris where the dollar opened above its record high on Monday and varied by almost 5 centimes in less than an hour.

It opened at 6.875 francs compared to Tuesday's close of 6.85 and climbed briefly to 6.90 before dropping back.

Only a passing phase

The dollar's renewed surge suggests that its steep fall in Europe Tuesday, which caused nervousness and profit-taking in New York, appears to have been a passing phase.

The U.S. currency recovered in later New York trading Tuesday and this continued in Far East markets, where the mark briefly touched 2.8415 Wednesday before

are closing in Tokyo at 2.8410.

Dealers in Frankfurt said the scramble for dollars seemed unabated after Tuesday's brief setback when the currency failed to push through the 2.85 mark level.

Dealers said they did not detect any action by West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, which is thought to have sold up to \$500 million on Monday in an attempt to halt the slide.

Dealers said the 2.85 mark level was likely to prove crucial again, together with the determination of the Bundesbank to defend the mark, which was also indicated lower against the Swiss franc and yen.

Sterling, meanwhile, was trading around \$1.399 following earlier crept above 1.40, the barrier first breached on Monday.

The dollar's surge Wednesday was blamed on renewed speculative demand from banks and an inflow of corporate orders as the conversion grew that its fundamental strength was unchanged.

In television interviews Tuesday, West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said demand for dollars was unlikely to abate before the U.S. elections in November, while Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl said the solution must lie in Washington.

Mr. Poehl stressed there was no crisis of confidence in the mark comparable to that in 1981 and said he did not think people should be too pessimistic about West German interest rates.

Tokyo stock market hits another record

In Tokyo, meanwhile, Japanese share prices resumed their upward trend Wednesday after a day pause and closed at new highs.

Dealers said the gains were more than enough to wipe out Tuesday's setback when the market declined for the first time in 10 days.

The market average, which lost 37.94 points Tuesday, rose 56.30 Wednesday to close at a record 1972.51 with a hefty 500 million shares changing hands.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower on profit-taking prompted by Tuesday's weaker trend on Wall Street. Dealers said adverse press comment on U.K. December money supply and the larger than expected rise of 3.4 per cent in manufacturers costs pushed government bonds lower by more than one point.

Falls among industrial leaders ranged to 12p as ICI at 636 and at 1500 the F.T. index was down 11.2 at 786.6.

Gold shares were mixed on opening lower levels and North American shares were also mixed, dealers added.

B.P. fell 11p to 393. Shell gave up 14p at 593 and Lasso was down 11p to 276. Banks showed declines of up to 7p as in Lloyd at 537. In lower insurance Legal and General was 11p off at 542 but Phoenix rose 14p to 415 after a broker's recommendation, dealers said.

I.T.L. was 4p up at 57 following the chairman's encouraging review at the annual meeting.

Thorn E.M.I. was unchanged at 667 ahead of results due Friday, but Glaxo rose 5p to 760 against the trend.

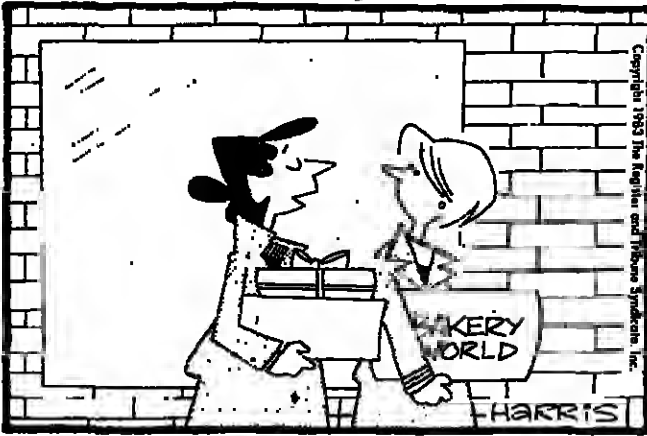
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| One sterling | 1.401/22 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.251/22 | Canadian dollars |
| | 2.255/71 | West German marks |
| | 3.171/21 | Dutch guilders |
| | 2.241/21 | Swiss francs |
| | 57.52/57 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.325/75 | French francs |
| | 1711.00/1713.50 | Italian lire |
| | 233.71/25 | Japanese yen |
| | 2.121/21 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.9281/9331 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 10.2151/2201 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 369.20/369.71 | U.S. dollars |

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Stanley's a take charge kind of guy. Whenever he buys something he asks, 'Take charge?'"

JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BIMOL

HURCS

CHATED

GINKAB



WHERE THOSE OLD-TIME WARRIORS WENT ON THEIR EVENINGS OFF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer to A " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TABOO GAVEL BOUNTY DAMAGE
Answer: The farmer became angry when someone managed to do this — GET HIS GOAT

Peanuts

DID YOU KNOW THAT I'M THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CACTUS CLUB?



IT'S QUITE AN HONOR



I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO MEET CHICKS!



I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO MEET CHICKS!



Mutt 'n' Jeff

YES, THAT'S RIGHT, THESE WHISTLES ARE SO HIGH PITCHED THEY CAN ONLY BE HEARD BY DOGS!



PET SHOP



TWEEEEE



WIN-?



Andy Capp

HOW DID THEY GET ON, PET?



DID THEY WIN?



WIN-?



THAT LOT COULDN'T WIN IF THEY PLAYED ON FANTASY ISLAND!!



YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A marvelous day for you to put into motion whatever new plans of action appeal to you. Your mind is clicking on ways to be more successful in life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find the right way to make practical arrangements for the future. Get an introduction to wise persons you wish to meet. They can be of help.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You have secret ambitions that require a new stance if you are to gain them. Be cheerful and make the evening at home pleasant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Concentrate on the best way to gain your finest hopes; gain the assistance of good friends. Attend a social affair in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A new attitude on your part can make this an outstanding day. Be alert to new opportunities. Show more thought for others.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day for activities that will help you to build your character. Avoid temptation to spend too much money.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get out of that rut and venture into something new. Your mate will co-operate more with you, bringing greater mutual happiness. Drive wisely.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Find better ways of pleasing usual allies and making the future brighter. Show true originality. Plunge right in to some public work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study new methods and forget past mistakes since this is the time for new beginnings. Now is the time to get rid of health problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Some creative project can be nicely completed today. Take more interest in the romantic side of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get into more basic activities and have more security in the future. Let your family in on the plans you have in mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are able to produce more now in important projects. Get busy at some new hobby that can be lucrative.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Find the best way to have more of the good things you want in life. Build up your savings account. Listen carefully.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who understands every phase of any situation and come to the right decision and get ahead of others. Important you give your progeny as fine an education as you can. Teach to be prompt.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are some changes to place in your financial affairs today, and you would be wise to use your intelligence to accept these new arrangements and turn them to your advantage. Be very practical.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Any misunderstandings with persons in business can be cleared up by having a quiet discussion with them, but be objective.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use tact in dealing with associates and get rid of tension between you. Study your appearance. Don't permit others to downgrade you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Sit down with a money expert and get good advice for the future. Become better organized. The evening can be pleasant.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy at your ideas, and don't permit a bickering mate and friends to deter you. Strive for that feeling of security.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't listen to what a family tie has to suggest otherwise you can ruin your present position. Take no risks with your credit.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You want to apply new ideas to present dealings, but they would not be workable at this time. Be explicit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Show your capabilities to a powerful person and gain support for them. See what it is your mate needs and try to help. Be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may be thinking of breaking up an alliance, but think it over well before you do. Be wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get to work at your duties early and don't make any changes that could prove detrimental. Try to better understand co-workers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you contact a good friend early, you can arrange recreation you have not enjoyed before this. Be careful in spending money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have to be more thoughtful of kin if you want things to go right at home. More effort can bring you greater security.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get to work on some worthwhile matter and be careful in conversation and driving. Avoid a silly person who could get you into trouble.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who will be very capable at worldly matters, particularly in dealing with important persons. Stand education along financial and business lines. Teach good manners early in life.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Taiwan main obstacle in Sino-U.S. ties, Zhao says

WASHINGTON (R) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang told President Reagan that differences over Taiwan were the main stumbling block to the growth of Sino-American relations.

Mr. Zhao, in a toast at a White House dinner Tuesday night, went beyond his remarks on arrival earlier in the day when he did not mention Taiwan directly but spoke of difficulties and obstacles in the relationship.

At the dinner, which ended his first full day in Washington, he said he believed both the Chinese and American people hoped for advances in friendship between the two countries "and not the undermining of our friendship by aggravation of our differences."

He continued: "The Taiwan issue is the major difference between China and the United States, or in other words, the principal obstacle to the growth of Sino-U.S. relations."

Mr. Zhao said he hoped the two sides would strictly abide by the principles in joint communiques between the United States and China "and fulfill the commitments each of us has under-

ermined so that our differences may be resolved."

China has long been unhappy with U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and Washington's unofficial relationship with the Nationalist-held island, which Peking regards as a breakaway province.

In the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué, the United States acknowledged Peking's position that Taiwan was part of China, and in August 1982 Washington agreed to gradually reduce arms supplies to Taiwan.

Mr. Zhao said his talks with Mr. Reagan and other high officials Wednesday had been held in a friendly and candid atmosphere.

"These talks have helped to enhance our mutual understanding and both sides have expressed the desire to further develop Sino-U.S. relations," he said.

But he said the "jolts and uncertainties" in relations in the five

years since normalization did not serve the interests of the two people or of world peace.

"We hope this disturbing situation will soon be brought to an end," he added.

In a reference to East-West tensions, Mr. Zhao said the confrontation between the two "military blocs" had become sharper. "Before the flames of one aggressive war are extinguished, those of another have started raging," he said. "The grim reality constrains everybody to worry about the future of the world."

He said China, a nuclear power, had always been opposed to the arms race and stood for complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

He criticized the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as discriminatory. But he said China did not engage in nuclear proliferation or help other countries develop nuclear weapons.

China and the United States have given priority to discussions on a nuclear cooperation agreement that would pave the way for U.S. sales of nuclear reactors and technology to China.

U.S. officials hope an agreement will be ready by the time Mr. Reagan goes to China in April.

Former Argentine president arrested

Buenos Aires (R) — Former Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone was arrested Tuesday, one month after quitting power, on charges of responsibility for the disappearance of two conscript soldiers in 1976.

Federal Judge Carlos Olivieri told reporters he had remanded Gen. Bignone in custody following his spontaneous appearance in court this afternoon. The former president would be held at a military base.

Gen. Bignone is the first military officer to be arrested on human rights charges since he handed over power to elected President Raul Alfonsín on Dec. 10 after eight years of military rule.

Earlier Tuesday, an appeal court dismissed a request by Gen. Bignone to be excused custody on charges of illegal deprivation of liberty, abuse of authority, violation of duty as a public servant and concealment of information.

The appeal court said there was enough *prima facie* evidence to suspect that Gen. Bignone was responsible for the disappearance of Luis Garcia and Luis Sternberg, who went missing in 1976 while serving as conscripts at the military academy.

Gen. Bignone was director of the institution at the time.

Danish Conservatives fail to gain working majority

COPENHAGEN (R) — Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter won a resounding vote of personal confidence in Tuesday's general election, with his Conservative Party emerging as the big winner, but he failed to gain the working majority needed to carry out his economic reforms.

Mr. Schluter's centre-right minority coalition, which won 42.8 per cent of the vote, planned to return to office Wednesday after winning an extra 11 seats in the 179-member parliament, taking its total to 76.

But the results reproduced the parliamentary deadlock which has led to the collapse of two minority administrations since the previous election in December 1981.

They left the government at the mercy of two small parties with widely diverging views. One of them immediately indicated it would make trouble over the country's 1984 budget, whose rejection last month sparked Tuesday's poll.

Mr. Schluter, commenting on the final results, said Denmark would face chaos if new elections were held and urged support for his finance bill, the main plank of his policy.

COLUMNS 7&8

Israeli parents name baby Shekel

HAIFA, Israel (R) — A premature baby boy who looked unlikely to survive a month ago has been named Shekel after the Israeli currency because his parents thought his growth was as impressive as Israeli inflation. A hospital spokeswoman said the boy was born three months premature and his parents were told it would take a miracle for him to survive. He was discharged from the hospital recently after having more than doubled his weight to 2.3 kilograms. The spokeswoman said because of his weight increase, the parents decided to call him Shekel after the way prices are going up. Israel's annual inflation rate stands at nearly 200 per cent.

Police bust 'school for snatchers'

MANILA (R) — Police have arrested about 40 boys apparently trained by modern-day Filipino Fagin as petty thieves, pickpockets and bag-snatchers, a spokesman said. He said the children, the youngest aged six and the oldest 14, were picked up in raids in north Manila aimed at stamping out gine-sniffing. But as well as finding boys high on glue, police discovered they were operating as part of a "school for snatchers" run by professional criminals. The spokesman said the youngsters, who call themselves "rugby boys" after a popular brand of glue, had been turned over to the dangerous drugs board for further examination.

China has 3,765 centenarians

PEKING (R) — China has 3,765 centenarians among its one billion population, of whom the oldest is a man aged 131, the national census office said. It said 36 of China's old folk are aged between 120 and 130, and named the oldest of them all as Kurban Yasheng, a member of one of China's Turkic minorities in the vast Xinjiang region of Central Asia. It noted that 2,657 of China's centenarians are women, compared with only 1,108 men.

Pakistan bans wedding lights

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's weddings might lose some of their sparkle when the lights traditionally used as decorations are banned to conserve energy. Water and Power Minister Sikandar Zaman told a news conference the multi-coloured lights, usually hung at the houses of the bride and groom, would be banned for 18 days in January as part of a campaign to cut power consumption. He said shops providing non-essential services or supplies would also have to close by sunset.

Chinese develop new technique

PEKING (R) — Chinese surgeons say they have developed a technique for reconstructing a mutilated or underdeveloped human penis. The New China News Agency said Wednesday that one patient had already fathered a child after surgery in Shanghai. The plastic surgeons take skin with its attached blood vessels, muscle and sometimes nerves from the patient's forearm to reconstruct the organ. The forearm is particularly suitable as skin tissue there is thin and smooth. Dr. Zhang Dingsheng told the agency. It reported that 111 operations had been performed successfully since 1981. Doctors previously used skin tubes transplanted from the abdomen and thighs but these apparently were inept at producing an erection and the operation was much more complex, it added.

Seoul reacts coolly to North's proposal

SEOUL (R) — North Korea, in a major policy change, Wednesday proposed talks with South Korea, and the United States on reunifying the divided peninsula, but Seoul said China should also take part.

The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Pyongyang was willing to take part in discussions with Seoul and Washington on ending hostilities between North and South and reunifying the peninsula, divided at the end of the World War II.

But South Korean National Unification Minister, Son Jae-shik, said in a national broadcast that Pyongyang should instead agree to talks between the two Koreas, the United States and China.

In Washington Tuesday night, President Reagan told a reporter at a White House dinner for vis-

iting Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang that talks should include China.

The inclusion of China, one of North Korea's main supporters, could present difficulties for Pyongyang because its other main supporter, the Soviet Union, might be offended.

Minister Son said Pyongyang had refused direct talks with Seoul in the past. He also called on the North Koreans to admit responsibility for the Oct. 4 Rangoon bombing in which four South Korean cabinet ministers were killed.

A Seoul Foreign Ministry official said: "I do not see much significance in the latest North Korean proposal. Such a deceptive peace offensive must be aimed at recovering their diplomatic face which suffered a great blow over the Rangoon incident."

"We have witnessed similar North Korean deceit many times

in the past," he told reporters.

The KCNA said that North Korea in separate letters addressed to the "U.S. government and Congress" and to "Seoul authorities," proposed Panmunjom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas, as a possible site for the talks.

Or it said a convenient third country could be used as a venue for the negotiations.

The letters, published by KCNA, expressed the hope that Washington and Seoul "will pay deep attention to our proposal and show an affirmative response to it."

The letters said: "The tripartite talks may take up the question of signing a peace agreement which would replace the armistice agreement between us and the United States, the two signatories to the Korean armistice agreement."

Sri Lankan opposition ends boycott

COLOMBO (R) — Two Sri Lankan opposition parties have decided to end their boycott of a conference on the island's ethnic problem, party spokesmen said Wednesday.

The conference ended its first session Tuesday with an appeal to the parties, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike and a leftist group, the Mahajana Eksarh Peramuna (MEP), to join the talks in the national interest.

Dissident Afghan rebel holds up arms for rival

QUETTA, Pakistan — A disgruntled Afghan guerrilla leader held up rebel arms convoys into southern and western Afghanistan for two weeks before rival insurgents flushed him out of a hilltop stronghold on Monday, guerrilla sources said here Wednesday.

Ten men were killed when a force of about 1,000 guerrillas attacked Asmat Muslim and his 300 men at their positions 30 kilometres north of the Pakistani border town of Chaman, the sources told Reuters.

The larger group, drawn from several exiled parties fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul gov-

ernment, took three days to reopen the main road from Chaman to Kandahar, the second-largest city in Afghanistan.

Although their main targets are the 115,000 Soviet troops who have been in Afghanistan since December 1979, the disorganised rebel groups sometimes turn on each other in clashes sparked by political differences or tribal rivalries.

The sources said Mr. Muslim, son of an Afghan general and himself trained in Afghan and Soviet military schools, had fallen out with other guerrilla commanders over distribution of arms and ammunition.

Full ties with Vatican angers U.S. Protestants

WASHINGTON (R) — The restoration of full diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican after more than 100 years has angered American Protestants. The move, announced at the Vatican Tuesday and later in Washington, was made possible by the lifting last November of an 1867 U.S. congressional ban on use of federal funds to support an ambassador to the Holy See.

President Reagan has nominated California businessman William Wilson, his personal envoy to the Vatican for the past three years, to the ambassadorial post.

Mr. Wilson's nomination must be confirmed by the Senate. Congressional sources predicted his appointment would be approved despite fierce opposition from Protestant groups.

"This is a clear violation of the principle of keeping church and state separate. It is a dangerous and divisive precedent of government meddling in church affairs," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Marcos names bank governor as new education minister

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Wednesday named Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya as the new education minister, a Presidential Palace spokesman said.

Mr. Marcos made the announcement at a meeting with members of the ruling New Society Movement (KBL).

The surprise appointment came as the Philippines was negotiating with international bank creditors to reschedule some of its \$25 billion foreign debt and also raise about \$4 billion in new loans and credits.

Mr. Laya, who returned Tuesday night from a brief visit to Peking with the president's wife, Imelda Marcos, was to have left later this week for further talks with bank representatives.

The president did not name a successor but said Mr. Laya would help find a replacement at the Central Bank.

Mr. Laya has been bank governor since January, 1981, when he succeeded Gregorio Licos, who resigned in the wake of a

multi-million dollar loan scandal.

As education minister, Mr. Marcos told KBL members, Mr. Laya would "reorganise the ministry from top to bottom."

The previous minister, Onofre Corpuz, resigned last month.

Mr. Laya, one of the young non-political "technocrats" in the Marcos government, celebrated his 45th birthday on Sunday.

The appointment caught Manila's financial community by surprise.

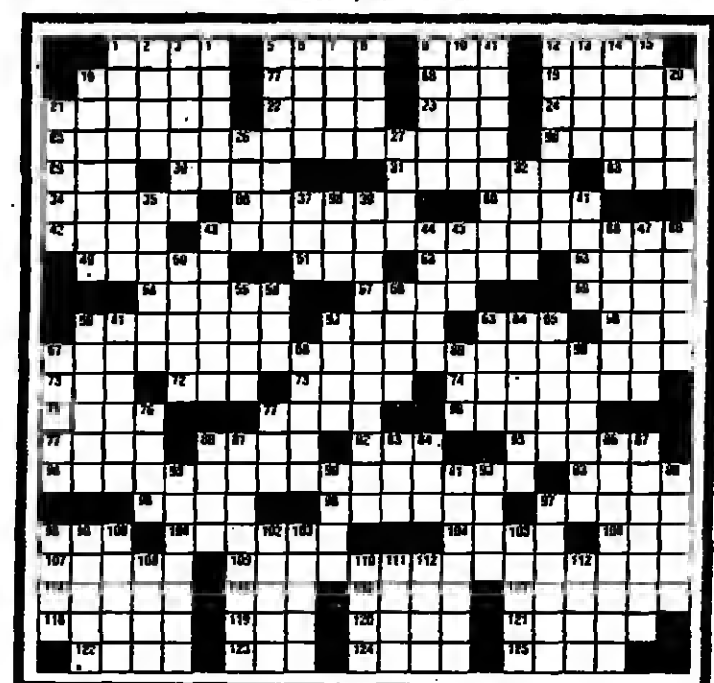
With Prime Minister Cesar Virata, who is also minister of finance, he had won the confidence of international and domestic bankers with whom he had been negotiating to help get the Philippines out of a major financial crisis.

One foreign banker closely involved with the debt negotiations expressed shock at the announcement.

"We have a very high regard for Mr. Laya though this was tarnished by the mis-declaration of the bank's foreign reserves," he said.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ertman

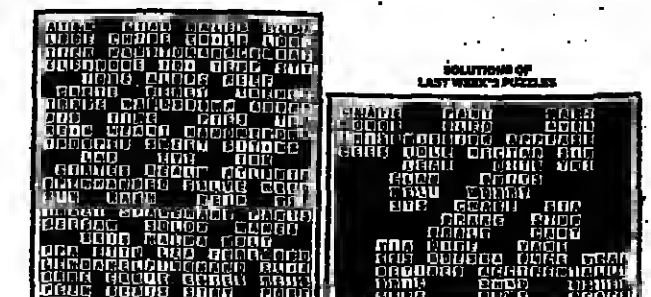


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. La Fontaine wisely said it this way: "Never call the beardskin until you have killed the bear." Nifty!
2. The man who can quit when things go wrong has thought, no doubt, of someone who can be blamed for it.
3. Romantic lamp lighters can leave you happy young lovers in the gloaming.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. "SE EA BAN, BV BRWW EA XCD, NSE OBA BASTE BASTOXABE DRWVVDSE. — By Maure Marc
2. WBUBSHY CHEEPO CUREOTZZOU CHEEPO TOO YRO SW CUREO. — By Lois R. Jones
3. ELOBN LBBASV BD LJVVEGA KJVS BNN TOEL OOGS NOCLSHRIDC DST BBV. — By Earl Ireland
4. QUA ETUUAEXVO RTTYG XBQGH ROYVGUTY BATH. — By John Trench



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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A BIRD IN HAND IS CASH IN THE BANK

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ A 10 6 5
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ J 4
♣ 10 7 2

WEST EAST
♠ 9 7 3 2 ♠ K Q 4
♥ K Q ♡ 6 5
♦ 8 6 5 ♣ 9 7 3
♣ Q 5 4 3 ♣ A K J 9 8

SOUTH
♠ J 8
♥ A J 10 7 3
♦ A K Q 10 3
♣ 6

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣
Pass 4 ♣ Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♣.

Champion duplicate players do not always make winning rubber bridge plays. The lure of the overbuck at duplicate is strong, but is inimical to the interests of rubber bridge. Here's a prime example.

Despite East's opening bid, North-South reached their heart game. Note North's raise of his partner's overall despite scant values — it is usually sound practice to raise partner when you

have four-card support, even with slight values.

West led his fourth-best club, East won the king and continued with the ace. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the jack of diamonds and finessed the two of hearts.

West won and persevered with clubs. Declarer, a well-known tournament expert, ruffed again, crossed to the ace of spades and repeated the trump finesse. West scored his remaining trump honor and led a spade for down one.

There is considerable justification for West's play at duplicate, but at rubber bridge it is simply an act of charity. Since declarer can discard dummy's three spade losers on his high diamonds, he can afford to lose another trump trick. Therefore he should simply have led ace of trumps and another instead of taking a second finesse.

As the cards lie, declarer would have made an overbuck. But in the worst case, a defender would have scored a second trump and shifted to a spade. Declarer would simply win the ace and run his diamond trick, and dummy's last trump would be the fulfilling trick.

مكة من الأجداد